



Southern Five Regional Planning District and Development Commission

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Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board
C/o John Therriault, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 W. Randolph Street, Ste. 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601-3218

RECEIVED
CLERK'S OFFICE

JUL 18 2012

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

PC # 145

Re: Ameren Energy Resources Company, LLC's' Petition for Varlance from the Illinois Multi-Pollutant Standard: PCB 12-126

Dear Honorable Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board,

My name is Lisa Thurston and I'm the Executive Director of the Southern Five Regional Planning District and Development Commission, which services the southernmost five counties in Illinois. I'm writing to share my support for Ameren Energy Resources Company, LLC (AER) and its request to extend the deadline for upgrading its facilities to meet new state emission standards.

AER supports the initiatives to lower power plant emission; however, because of the national recession and market forces impacting natural gas prices and the market price of power, it does not have the financial resources to install new equipment at this time.

In its petition, AER is not asking for special treatment or to be excused from the emission requirements. It simply asks for more time to achieve the state's environmental goals, which it absolutely supports. In fact, the company has vowed to further lower its emissions beyond state requirements. But if AER isn't granted an extension, it would have no other choice but to shut down some of its energy centers.

The AER EEI Energy Center has been a major source of economic influence in the Southern Five Region. The plant provides valuable jobs for our local residents. The property tax revenue generated by the plant greatly contributes to local public services, like our schools, parks and libraries.

Without the EEI Energy Center, the Southern Five Region would lose hundreds of jobs and essential local services. In light of today's uncertain economy and skyrocketing unemployment, we cannot afford to lose anything that positively impacts the local economy.

For the sake of our community and its people, please support AER's petition for temporary relief.

Sincerely,

Lisa Thurston, Executive Director
Southern Five Regional Planning District and Development Commission