



July 16, 2012

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

P.C. 144

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

Dear Honorable Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board,

On behalf of the Jasper County Economic Development Committee, I'm writing in support of Ameren Energy Resources Company, LLC (AER) and its request to extend the deadline for upgrading energy stations as required by the new state emission standards.

The Jasper County Economic Development Committee is a local program that promotes and encourages job creation, community leadership, workforce development, cultural awareness and sustainable economic growth in the county.

For many years, AER has played a vital role in our local economy. The Newton Energy Center provides well-paying jobs for our community and the revenue generated from its property tax goes toward essential local public services, like our schools, parks and libraries. In today's troubled economy, we need all the help we can get.

But unfortunately, AER does not have the financial support to make such capital investments at this time. To date, AER has already spent more than \$1 billion in pollution control equipment. If AER were to make the additional upgrades under the existing deadline, it would have no other choice but to shut down some of its energy centers. Without the Newton Energy Center, Jasper County would be devastatingly short of valuable jobs and vital local services such as emergency response and public safety.

AER is not asking to be excused from the emission requirements. In fact it has agreed to take additional steps - beyond what is required - to further ensure clean air and reduce emissions. It simply asks for more time to meet the requirements and achieve the state's environmental goals, which it agrees must take place.

The recession has been hard on all of us, and to ensure the livelihood of Newton and the rest of the county, please support AER's petition for temporary relief.

Sincerely,

Bill Weber, Chairman
Jasper County Economic Development Committee