

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

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

P.C. # 148

Dear Honorable Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board,

My name is Tab Walker and I am the owner of the Outdoor Sportsman's Lodge in Newton. I'm writing to share my support for Ameren Energy Resources Company, LLC and its request to extend the deadline for upgrading its power stations to meet new state emission standards.

The Ameren Energy Resources Company, LLC (AER) Newton Energy Center has long played a vital role in our economy. The company provides hundreds well-paying jobs for the state and the property tax it generates goes toward local public services, like our schools, parks and libraries. In today's challenging economy and high unemployment, we need all the help we can get.

I understand the necessity of regulating power plant emissions in the state. But unfortunately, AER does not have the ability to make the costly capital investments needed for the pollution control equipment at this time. If AER were to make the upgrades under the existing deadline, it would have no other choice but to shut down some of its power stations.

The bottom line is that if the Newton Energy Center closes, it would have a devastating impact on this town. We can't afford to lose any more jobs, and we certainly can't afford to cut any vital local services like emergency response or public safety.

AER is not asking to be excused from the emission requirements. It simply asks for more time to meet the required limits in the future years while voluntarily reducing its emissions below what is required today – a win-win for everybody.

We need the Newton Energy Center. For the sake of our community and its people, please support AER's petition for an extension.

Sincerely,



Tab Walker, Owner
The Outdoor Sportsman's Lodge