



# Jasper County Community Unit #1

609 South Lafayette Street Newton, IL 62448  
Phone: 618/783-8459 Fax: 618/783-3679  
Dan Cox, Superintendent

We Inspire - We Lead - We Teach & Learn  
Educate Everyone, Everyday, Everyway

PC#1718

September 17, 2013

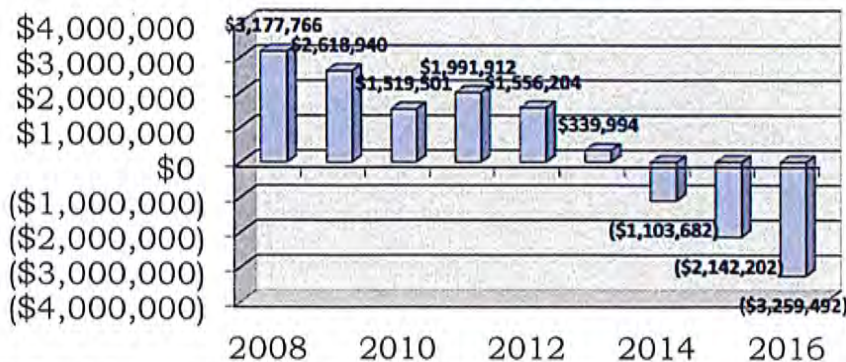
To: Honorable Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board  
From: Dan W. Cox, Superintendent of Schools  
Re: Public Comment in **Support** of Illinois Power Holdings' Petition, Docket No. 2014-010 (Air-Variance)

Dear Honorable Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board,

As the Superintendent of Schools I am here today to represent the teachers and students of Jasper County CUSD #1. On behalf of our schools, please consider support for the above mentioned variance request by Illinois Power Holdings (IPH), a Dynegy subsidiary. In September 2012, the Illinois Pollution Control Board saw fit to grant Ameren Energy Resources' (AER) variance request, recognizing both the environmental and economic benefits of doing so. The variance request applies to the Newton Power Station, a facility in my community. I urge the Board to grant IPH's petition so that the benefits to my community are not lost.

- Jasper County CUSD#1 is a unit school district consisting of 1,400 students PK-12. Unit #1 is the largest geographical school district in the state spanning 462 square miles.
- Unit #1 is the largest employer in our county with 200 certified and non-certified employees.
- Since 2008 Unit #1 has lost \$2.1 million in combined revenue resulting in loss of jobs, educational programs and school closures.
- The potential closure of the Newton Power Station should the variance not be granted would be devastating to a school any school district but especially Jasper Unit #1 after enduring such great revenue loss in recent years and for a district covering such large geographical boundaries.

### THREE OPERATING FUNDS (Ed., O&M, & Trans.) BALANCE



# JASPER COUNTY BOARD

Ed Mitchell, Chairman  
204 W. Washington, Suite 2  
Newton, IL 62448  
618-783-3124  
Fax # 618-783-4137

August 8, 2013

Clerk of the Board  
Illinois Pollution Control Board  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

PC#1719

Re: Ameren Energy Resources - Variance request

I have received notification from legal counsel from your office that Illinois Power Holdings, LLC ("IPH), Ameren Energy Medina Valley Cogen, LLC ("Medina Valley", and Ameren Energy Resources, LLC ("AER") of the Newton Energy Center in Jasper County have filed a petition for variance for the extension of time for sulfur dioxide emission rates deadline. Ameren Energy Resources of Newton Energy Center has been a partner with Jasper County and the surrounding area since 1977. They have always maintained a well-operated facility investing in several areas of their infrastructures, including environmental and emission controls, safety devices, additional cooling ponds to assist aquatic life, etc. They are presently investing more than five hundred million (500,000,000) dollars in the addition of a new state of the art scrubber to prevent or greatly reduce sulfur dioxide emissions. Due to the poor economy and a very slow economic recovery an extension of time should be considered.

Ameren Energy Resources is a strong partner for economic development within the county as they are a major employee. They contribute more than seven a one half (7.5 )million dollars in real estate taxes to Jasper County, Jasper County School District # One, Illinois Eastern Community College, Newton Library, South Muddy Township, Wade Fire District and University of Illinois Extension. This amount is slightly over half of the total property taxes extended for all the taxing bodies. The local school district receives approximately fifty (50) percent, Jasper County twenty (20) percent, and the junior college about sixteen (16) percent of these tax dollars.

The Jasper County Board recognized that Ameren Energy Center in Newton is a viable participant in the stability of Newton, Jasper County, Jasper County Schools, and the surrounding counties. It would be devastating for this facility to suddenly have to shut down. The effect would be devastating for school districts, all units of local governments, as well as the citizens of Jasper County and surrounding area.

The Jasper County Board would encourage you to evaluate the complex issue of the variance requested and grant assistance for our valuable economic partner. Thank you for your understanding in this complex issue.

Sincerely,

*Ed Mitchell*  
Ed Mitchell, County Board Chairman

cc: Mayor Mark Bolander -Newton  
Supt. Dan Cox - Jasper Unit # 1