

Board Accepts for Hearing a Proposed Rulemaking to Allow Closure of Ash Ponds at Ameren Energy Resources Facilities.

The Board, on April 18, 2013, accepted for hearing a proposed rulemaking to address the closure of coal combustion waste surface impoundments. The proposal would add a Subpart B to Part 840 of the Board's regulations. Ameren Energy Resources (AER), on April 9, 2013, filed the proposed rulemaking with the Board, which docketed the rulemaking as In the Matter of: Site-Specific Rule for the Closure of Ameren Energy Resources Ash Ponds: Proposed New 35 Ill. Adm. Code 840, Subpart B (R13-19).

Ameren states that it intends its rulemaking proposal to allow it to close surface impoundment for management of coal combustion waste at eight coal-fired power plants. These eight facilities include approximately 16 ash ponds "that could ultimately be subject to the proposed regulations." Ameren states that its proposal sets priorities for closing ash ponds "based on existing or future potable water uses in the area," allows establishment of a groundwater monitoring zone where necessary, and requires compliance with closure requirements similar to those adopted by the Board in R09-21, Ameren Ashpond Closure Rules (Hutsonville Power Station): Proposed 35 Ill. Adm. Code 840.101 through 840.152.

The eight plants are the Coffeen Power Station in Montgomery County; the Duck Creek Power Station in Fulton County; the E.D. Edwards Power Station in Peoria County; the Grand Tower Power Station in Jackson County; The Joppa Power Station in Massac County; the Hutsonville Power Station in Crawford County; the Meredosia Power Station in Morgan County; and the Newton Power Station in Jasper County.

In addition to accepting the proposed rulemaking for hearing, the Board directed the assigned hearing officer to schedule and proceed to hearing in the matter.

The Board encourages persons to file public comments on these proposed amendments. The docket number for this rulemaking, R13-19, should be indicated on the public comment. Public comments must be filed with the Clerk of the Board. Public comments may be filed at the following address:

Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601

In addition, public comments may be filed electronically through COOL at www.ipcb.state.il.us. Any questions about electronic filing through COOL should be directed to the Clerk's Office at (312) 814-3629.

Opinions and orders of the Board, hearing transcripts, and other documents in rulemaking records are posted on the Board's Web site and may be downloaded from the Web without charge. Hard copies may be obtained from the Clerk's office upon payment of reproduction fees as prescribed by Section 6 of the Freedom of Information Act [5 ILCS 140/6].

For more information contact Tim Fox at 312-814-6085 or email at tim.fox@illinois.gov.