

JOPPA-MAPLE GROVE UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #38

JOPPA HIGH SCHOOL
911 JOPPA NORTH AVENUE
P.O. BOX 10; JOPPA, IL 62953
(618) 543-7589
FAX 543-9264

MAPLE GROVE ELEMENTARY
1698 GRAND CHAIN ROAD
METROPOLIS, IL 62960
(618) 543-7434
FAX 543-7486



Bill Biggerstaff, Supt.

Bill Rogers, Assoc. Supt.

Terri Waddell, Prin.

Mr. Don Brown, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center
Suite 11-500
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601



RE: Public Comment in **Support** of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Filing to Revise the Multi-Pollutant Standards, Docket Number 18-20

Dear Honorable Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

I currently serve as the superintendent for the Joppa-Maple Grove USD #38 School District. I am writing you to share my support for the Illinois EPA's proposed revision to the state Multi-Pollutant Standards (MPS), currently pending before the Illinois Pollution Control Board. The rule represents a win-win for citizens of Illinois, strengthening both the state environmental standards and the economics of a vital downstate Illinois economic resource. I ask you to approve the revision.

There are clear economic and environmental benefits to revising this rule. The proposed rule caps allowable sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions from the Dynegy fleet of plants below the limits set by the current MPS agreements. Under the MPS proposal, the IEPA estimates that allowable annual emissions of SO₂ would be 17% lower than under the current rule, while NO_x emissions would be 24% lower. The MPS rules were created when the plants were owned and operated by separate owners, so it is simply good policy to bring all the plants under a single, consistent rule. This rule revision streamlines regulations, which benefits Illinois businesses and residents.

Dynegy has demonstrated its commitment to Illinois and the environment. Approximately \$2 billion has been invested in the Dynegy fleet for emission control. This allows Dynegy to meet the tighter allowable caps in the MPS proposal and build on the trend of lower emissions from Dynegy's Illinois fleet over the last two decades – an SO₂ reduction of 90%, with significant reductions in NO_x and other emissions.

At the Joppa power station, Dynegy employs approximately 139 people, with an annual payroll of approximately \$15 million. In addition, there are full-time contractors at the plant, bringing

our total workforce to approximately 238 persons. Dynegy's property taxes paid on that property for the most recent year were approximately \$845,000 in total, which included a portion to Massac County, a portion to the local municipality, and a portion to the school district.

I ask the Board to please give careful thought to the environmental benefits of this rule revision and the economic contributions of the covered facilities to the downstate economy.

Respectfully,



William Biggerstaff
Superintendent
Joppa-Maple Grove #38