

CITY OF NEWTON

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A City For Progress

April 3, 2018

To: The Illinois Pollution Control Board

From Mayor Mark Bolander

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

The Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB) is weighing a proposal of the Illinois EPA that would combine eight downstate power generation facilities owned by Dynegy, currently under two sets of emissions rate requirements, under a single requirement. Dynegy believes this move would achieve a number of regulatory and environmental benefits, while restoring operational flexibility to the generation fleet.

This change is needed. Since the rules were adopted more than a decade ago, the downstate generation profile has changed significantly due to reduced power prices, unit retirements and other factors. Today, under the current rules, we're often forced to operate plants in a manner that loses money and creates more emissions, including greenhouse gas emissions.

Contrary to what environmental group opponents say, the new rule would result in lower allowable emissions from the combined group of plants, with a hard cap on sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions that would be significantly below what the plants are currently allowed to emit. In some cases plant-specific SO₂ and NO_x limits would be introduced. And national air quality standards that protect public health and the environment would continue to be in effect.

The bottom line is that the rule would be good for the environment. And by helping ensure the viability of the downstate generation fleet, the rule would be good for Illinois.

Dynegy's plants provide:

- A reliable, low-cost source of electricity for consumers and business customers
- Tens of millions of dollars in local property taxes paid by Dynegy that support schools and public services, and
- Approximately 10,000 direct and indirect jobs. The economic impact is huge and necessary.

At the Newton Power Station in Jasper County Illinois, 80 employees and contractors are proud of what they do. They're working hard to provide safe, environmentally responsible power while giving back to the local community where they live and work. The loss of such an important and integral part of our community would be devastating.

Please accept this memorandum into your minutes as my final and official comments.