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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

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COUNSELING AND SOCIAL SERVICES

842 Curtiss Street
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4761
630.434.5595
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July 19, 2006

Mr. G. Tanner Girard
Acting Chairman Illinois Pollution Control Board
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P. O. Box 19274
Springfield, IL 62794-9274

Re: Village of Downers Grove Resolution 2006-67: **A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR REDUCTION OF MERCURY EMISSIONS FROM COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS IN ILLINOIS AND SUPPORTING THE ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S PROPOSED MERCURY EMISSIONS REDUCTION RULE**

Dear Mr. Girard:

At its regular meeting on July 18, 2006, the Downers Grove Village Council adopted Resolution 2006-67 calling for reduction of mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants in Illinois and supporting the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's proposed mercury emissions reduction rule.

I am enclosing a copy of the resolution.

Very truly yours,

April K. Holden
Village Clerk

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE

encl: a/s

cc: Doug Kozlowski, Director, Marketing & Media Relations



**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR REDUCTION OF MERCURY EMISSIONS
FROM COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS IN ILLINOIS
AND SUPPORTING THE ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S
PROPOSED MERCURY EMISSIONS REDUCTION RULE**

WHEREAS, mercury is a known neurotoxin that damages the human brain, heart, and immune system; and developing fetuses and children are especially at risk as even low-level mercury exposure can cause learning disabilities, developmental delays, decreased IQ, and difficulties with memory and attention; and the dominant route of human exposure to mercury is eating fish contaminated with it; and mercury contamination of fish is already widespread in Illinois so that in DuPage County, the State's testing has found that 40 percent of fish samples are contaminated at a level that could cause a public health problem; and

WHEREAS, due to mercury contamination in Illinois waters, the Illinois Department of Public Health warns people to eat no more than one meal per week of any predator fish caught in the State so that mercury in these fish endangers everyone, doing disproportionate harm to people in our communities for whom our State's fisheries are central to life: the sports anglers, commercial fishermen, charter boat operators and their clients; but, it also affects Illinoisans who buy local fish at the market -- and all of their families; and

WHEREAS, the 21 coal-fired power plants in Illinois are the single largest source of in-state mercury emissions, emitting more than all other human activities combined; and researchers tell us that most of this mercury will be deposited locally; and a recent National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration study concluded that 16 of the 25 top sources of mercury deposited in Lake Michigan are coal-fired power plants; and

WHEREAS, despite the profundity of the mercury problem, reducing power plant emissions under Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule is a solution that we can implement now because affordable, readily available technologies can capture 90% of mercury emissions; and

WHEREAS, right now the federal government is implementing rules that will delay meaningful mercury reductions for at least another decade, putting another generation of developing children and the health of Illinois waters at risk. In response to the insufficient federal policy, three states have already put their plants on a schedule to eliminate 90% of their mercury emissions; and our State should do the same; and for the sake of Illinois' 1,237,000 anglers, 1,200 commercial fishermen, and families that want a healthy environment for their children, and on behalf of the citizens of Downers Grove whom we represent, we support approval of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's mercury reduction rule.

WHEREAS, the Village of Downers Grove wishes to re-affirm Resolution No. 99-61 and continues to support imposing conditions on coal-fired power plants in the State of Illinois requiring compliance with Clean Air Standards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove, DuPage County, Illinois, as follows:

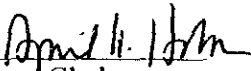
Section 1. That the Village of Downers Grove calls for reduction of mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants and supports approval of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's mercury reduction rule by the Illinois Pollution Control Board.

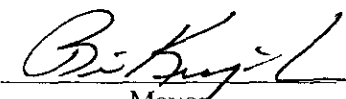
Section 2. That the Village Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to forward certified copies of this Resolution to Illinois Pollution Control Board, Governor Rod Blagojevich, members of the Illinois Joint Committee

on Administrative Rules, Federal and State members of the DuPage delegation and the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference.

Section 3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption and approval in the manner provided by law.

Passed: July 11, 2006

Attest: 
Village Clerk


Mayor