

**RECEIVED**  
CLERK'S OFFICE

NOV 06 2000

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

November 3, 2000

1113 Tiffany Lane  
Libertyville, IL 60048

Dorothy Gunn, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board  
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 11-500  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

*RO1-10*  
*P.C. #162*

Re: RO1-10

Gentlemen:

I wish to register my concerns about the proliferation of proposed peaker power plants in Illinois. Although peaker plants have benefits to offer, such as generating electricity without nearly the quantity of air pollution as old coal-fired power plants, they also have some negatives such as producing a certain quantity of air pollution, as well as a certain level of noise. In addition, their water requirements pose a problem for a state that is unlikely to receive a greater water allotment from Lake Michigan, and whose groundwater resources are increasingly strained by present development.

At present, all these proposals must be evaluated by the individual villages and municipalities to whom they are submitted. That is not an easy task. Each village and municipality must assess the proposal in terms of its effect on the local area. And yet, many of the effects have a far wider effect than a local one; air pollution in this area, for instance, tends to drift northward; therefore a downstate peaker may well have its greatest effect in the northern counties, such as Lake County or DuPage County. A plant that draws its water from groundwater may well affect villages and municipalities far from its site.

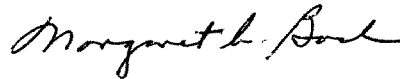
I am suggesting that we must be careful not to create another long-term negative impact while we are trying to deal with cleaning up a negative impact of past decision making.

To that end, I believe that we must consider their impact statewide. We need a statewide discussion on how many peakers would be optimal, and how to decide which sites are appropriate. We need to review our air quality statutes and regulations, and probably make them more rigorous. And those additional regulations or restrictions should apply to currently permitted facilities and to new facilities and expansions. A careful review of how other states have regulated or restricted peaker plants may be of value. I refer you to the California

Environmental Protection Agency Air Resources Board "Guidance for Power Plant Siting and Best Available Control Technology" publication, as approved by the Air Resources Board on July 22, 1999, as an example of what other states are doing.

We have an opportunity here, in a rapidly evolving field, to make Illinois a leader in responsible energy growth. We also have an obligation.

Sincerely,



Margaret A. Bock

