



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
JIM ARDIS

Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board
C/o John Therriault, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 W. Randolph Street, Ste. 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601-3218

July 6, 2012

Re: Ameren Energy Resources Company, LLC's' Petition for Variance from the Illinois Multi-Pollutant Standard: PCB 12-126

Dear Honorable Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board,

I write to you today to share my support for Ameren Energy Resources Company, LLC (AER) and its request to extend the deadline for upgrading its energy stations to meet new state emission standards.

As the Mayor of Peoria, I know AER is an important proponent of our local economy. The Edwards Energy Center currently employs 110 people, and these well-paying jobs boost the household income and spur economic development in our community. The plant is also an imperative source of property tax revenue, which in turn supports essential public services like education and public safety. I understand the interest for Illinois to adopt stricter air regulations. In fact, our community and AER support this direction as well.

However, in this time of economic hardship, AER does not have the financial resources to immediately meet the Illinois emission requirements. If its requested relief is not granted, then it would be forced to take drastic action and shutter some of its energy centers. Not only would that harm the quality of my community, it would also have a negative effect on the state's economy.

AER is not asking to be excused from the emission requirements. In fact AER has agreed to voluntarily commit to further reductions to achieve similar emission outcomes during the period it has requested the relief. AER is simply asking for more time to make appropriate investments in order to achieve pollution control without having to cut jobs and economic opportunities for Illinoisans.

Just like AER's commitment to lowering emissions, I have made a commitment to Peoria, to ensure the availability of public services and to always serve the wellbeing of this community. In doing so, I must ask the Board to please support AER's petition for temporary relief. The welfare of our town depends on it.

Sincerely,

Jim Ardis
Mayor, Peoria

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