



West Central Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council

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July 6, 2012

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

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

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

- Boilermakers
- Bricklayers
- Carpenters
- Electrical Workers
- Elevator Constructors
- Heat & Frost Insulators
- Iron Workers
- Laborers
- Millwrights
- Operating Engineers
- Painters/Glaziers
- Plasterers - Cement Masons
- Plumbers
- Road Sprinkler Fitters
- Roofers
- Sheet Metal Workers
- Steamfitters
- Teamsters

Dear Honorable Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

My name is Martin J. Helfers and I'm a resident of Central Illinois. On behalf of The West Central Illinois Building & Construction Trades Council I'm writing to share my support for Ameren Energy Resources Company, LLC (AER) and its request to extend the deadline for upgrading its facilities to meet new state emission standards.

AER supports the initiatives to lower power plant emission, however, because of the national recession and market forces impacting natural gas prices and the market price of power, it does not have the financial resources to install new equipment at this time.

In its petition, AER is not asking for special treatment or to be excused from the emission requirements. It simply asks for more time to achieve the state's environmental goals, which it absolutely supports. In fact, the company has vowed to further lower its emissions beyond state requirements. But if AER isn't granted an extension, it would have no other choice but to shut down some of its energy centers.

The AER Edwards Energy Center has been a major source of economic influence in this town. The plant provides well-paying jobs for our residents, some of who are also members of the BTC. The property tax revenue generated by the plant greatly contributes to local public services, like our schools, parks and libraries.

Without the Edwards Energy Center, Peoria would lose valuable jobs and essential local services. In light of today's uncertain economy and skyrocketing unemployment, this town cannot afford to lose anything that positively impacts the local economy.

For the sake of our community and its people, please support AER's petition for temporary relief.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Helfers
Executive Director
West Central Illinois Building & Construction Trades Council
400 NE Jefferson St., Suite 403
Peoria, Illinois 61603



PALM
Professional Association of Labor Management

