

Secretary
Jerel Childers

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Billy Hillebrand

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OF

MASSAC COUNTY
METROPOLIS, IL 62960

July 19, 2012

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CLERK'S OFFICE

JUL 27 2012

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

Pct# 313

Dear Honorable Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

We are writing to you today to share our 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 Massac County Commissioners, we know AER is an important proponent of our local economy. The EEI Joppa Generating Plant currently employs 235 people, and these well-paying jobs boost the household income and spur economic development in our County. The plant is also an imperative source of property tax revenue (\$850,248.08 in the 2010 tax year), which in turn supports essential public services like education and public safety.

We understand the interest for Illinois to adopt stricter air regulations. In fact, our County 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 our 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 earlier 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, we have made a commitment to Massac County, to ensure the availability of public services and to always serve the wellbeing of this community. In doing so, we must ask the Board to please support AER's petition for temporary relief. The welfare of our County depends on it.

Sincerely,



Billy Hillebrand
Chairman



Jerel Childers
Massac County Commissioner



Jayson Farmer
Massac County Commissioner