

Board Grants a Stay in a Proposed Rulemaking to Allow Closure of Ash Ponds at Ameren Energy Resources Facilities.

On July 25, 2013, the Board granted Ameren Energy Resources' (Ameren), request for a one-year stay in a proposed rulemaking to address the closure of coal combustion waste surface impoundments. The proposed rule would add a Subpart B to Part 840 of the Board's regulations. Ameren, on April 9, 2013, filed the proposed rulemaking with the Board, which docketed the rulemaking as In the Matter of: Site-Specific Rule for the Closure of Ameren Energy Resources Ash Ponds: Proposed New 35 Ill. Adm. Code 840, Subpart B (R13-19).

Ameren states that its rulemaking proposal is intended to allow it to close surface impoundment for management of coal combustion waste at eight coal-fired power plants. owned by Ameren: the Coffeen Power Station in Montgomery County; the Duck Creek Power Station in Fulton County; the E.D. Edwards Power Station in Peoria County; the Grand Tower Power Station in Jackson County; the Joppa Power Station in Massac County; the Hutsonville Power Station in Crawford County; the Meredosia Power Station in Morgan County; and the Newton Power Station in Jasper County. These facilities include approximately 16 ash ponds "that could ultimately be subject to the proposed regulations."

On July 1, 2013, Ameren filed a motion to stay proceedings stating that, both before and after filing its proposal with the Board, it discussed proposed rule language with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). IEPA has circulated draft rules that would apply state-wide to regulate the closure of coal ash ponds. Ameren's requested stay allows time to review the Illinois EPA's draft rule language.

Opinions and orders of the Board, hearing transcripts, and other documents in rulemaking records are posted on the Board's Web site and may be downloaded from the Web without charge. Hard copies may be obtained from the Clerk's office upon payment of reproduction fees as prescribed by Section 6 of the Freedom of Information Act [5 ILCS 140/6].

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