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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

R14-10

PCH 3917

February 29, 2016

Dear Mr. Therriault,

I am writing in concern of Dynergy's three coal ash pits, located at the Newtown, Illinois power plant. My wife and I live two miles away from these ash pits and our well water is in the watershed area that may become contaminated from these pits leaching into the groundwater. Our water is not the only one that may be contaminated. Oakwood Junior High School is located only one mile away from the ash pits, and they also obtain their water from a well.

There are 33 million cubic yards of coal ash in these three pits. Two of the pits are unlined and already leaching in to the river and groundwater. The third pit is lined, but it is inherently unstable. The Middlefork of the Vermilion River is already undercutting the bank at one point, and it is only a matter of time before it is breached.

My extended family and I often canoe and do other forms of recreation on the Middlefork of the Vermilion River. It is the only National Wild and Scenic River in Illinois, and is a tourist draw for canoeists from all over the state.

Dynergy wants to cap these ash pits and walk away. This would leave the eventual clean-up for Vermilion County and Illinois taxpayers. I urge you to require Dynergy to move the contents of the ash pits to higher ground in a properly lined pit that will not leach into the river or into groundwater.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

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