

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:)
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)
 COAL COMBUSTION WASTE (CCW)) R14-10
 ASH PONDS AND SURFACE) (Rulemaking – Water)
 IMPOUNDMENTS AT)
 POWER GENERATING FACILITIES:)
 PROPOSED NEW 35 ILL.ADM.)
 CODE 841)

NOTICE OF FILING

TO: Mr. John T. Therriault
 Assistant Clerk of the Board
 Illinois Pollution Control Board
 100 W. Randolph Street
 Suite 11-500
 Chicago, Illinois 60601
(VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that I have today filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board the **POST-HEARING COMMENTS OF PRAIRIE POWER, INC.** copies of which are herewith served upon you.

Respectfully submitted,

PRAIRIE POWER INC.,

Dated: October 20, 2014

By: /s/ Jennifer M. Martin
 Jennifer M. Martin

N. LaDonna Driver
 Jennifer M. Martin
 HODGE DWYER & DRIVER
 3150 Roland Avenue
 Post Office Box 5776
 Springfield, Illinois 62705-5776
 (217) 523-4900

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Jennifer M. Martin, the undersigned, hereby certify that I have served the attached **POST-HEARING COMMENTS OF PRAIRIE POWER, INC.**, upon:

Mr. John T. Therriault
Assistant Clerk of the Board
Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

via electronic mail on October 20, 2014; and upon:

Stephen Sylvester, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
69 West Washington Street
Suite 1800
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Joanne M. Olson, Esq.
Assistant Counsel
James Jennings, Esq.
Assistant Counsel
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

David Rieser
Much Shelist PC
191 North Wacker Drive
Suite 1800
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Mark A. Bilut
McDermott, Will & Emery
227 West Monroe
Chicago, Illinois 60606-5096

Christine G. Zeman, Esq.
City of Springfield
Office of Public Utilities
800 East Monroe
4th Floor
Municipal Bldg. East
Springfield, Illinois 62757-0001

Amy Antonioli
Schiff Hardin, LLP
6600 Willis Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6473

Faith E. Bugel
Jessica Dexeter
Jennifer L. Cassel
Andrew Armstrong
Josh Zaharof
Environmental Law and Policy Center
35 E. Wacker Drive
Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Jack Darin
Sierra Club
70 E. Lake Street
Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60601-7447

Ameren Services
One Ameren Plaza
P.O. Box 66149
St. Louis, Missouri 63166

Office of General Counsel
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271

Jason McLaurin
Southern Illinois Power Cooperative
11543 Lake of Egypt Road
Marion, Illinois 62959-8500

Exelon Law Department
10 South Dearborn
49th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Traci Barkley
Prairie Rivers Network
1902 Fox Drive
Suite 6
Champaign, Illinois 61820

Susan M. Franzetti
Nijman Franzetti LLP
10 South LaSalle Street
Suite 3600
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Alec Messina, Esq.
Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group
215 E. Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

Rick Diericx
Senior Director
Dynergy Midwest Generation, Inc.
1500 Eastport Plaza Dr.
Collinsville, Illinois 62234-6135

Michael Smallwood
Consulting Engineer
Ameren
1901 Chouteau Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63103

Abel Russ, Esq.
Environmental Integrity Project
1000 Vermont Avenue NW
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

Christopher Foley, Esq.
Senior Counsel
Midwest Generation
500 West Madison Street
Suite 2640
Chicago, Illinois 60661

Electric Energy, Inc.
2100 Portland Road
P.O. Box 165
Joppa, Illinois 62953

Kincaid Generation LLC
P.O. Box 260
Kincaid, Illinois 62540

Prairie State Generating Company
3872 County Highway 12
Marissa, Illinois 62257

Elizabeth Quirk-Hendry, Esq.
General Counsel East Region
Keith Schmidt
Director of Environment
NRG Energy, Inc.
211 Carnrgie Center
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

Walter Stone
Vice President
NRG Energy, Inc.
8301 Professional Place
Suite 230
Landover, Maryland 20785

by depositing said documents in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, in Springfield,
Illinois, on October 20, 2014.

/s/ Jennifer M. Martin
Jennifer M. Martin

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ENTRY OF APPEARANCE OF N. LADONNA DRIVER

NOW COMES N. LaDonna Driver, of the law firm of HODGE DWYER & DRIVER, and hereby enters her appearance on behalf of PRAIRIE POWER, INC., in the above-referenced matter.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ N. LaDonna Driver
N. LaDonna Driver

Dated: October 20, 2014

N. LaDonna Driver
HODGE DWYER & DRIVER
3150 Roland Avenue
Post Office Box 5776
Springfield, Illinois 62705-5776
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ENTRY OF APPEARANCE OF JENNIFER M. MARTIN

NOW COMES Jennifer M. Martin, of the law firm of HODGE DWYER &
DRIVER, and hereby enters her appearance on behalf of PRAIRIE POWER, INC., in the
above-referenced matter.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Jennifer M. Martin
Jennifer M. Martin

Dated: October 20, 2014

Jennifer M. Martin
HODGE DWYER & DRIVER
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Post Office Box 5776
Springfield, Illinois 62705-5776
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POST-HEARING COMMENTS OF PRAIRIE POWER, INC.

NOW COMES Prairie Power, Inc. (“PPI”), by its attorneys, HODGE DWYER & DRIVER, and pursuant to the Hearing Officer Order entered on July 25, 2014, timely files the following Post-Hearing Comments related to the rulemaking proposals submitted by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (“Illinois EPA”) and the Environmental Integrity Project, Environmental Law and Policy Center, Prairie Rivers Network and Sierra Club (collectively “the Environmental Groups”) in the above-referenced matter (“the Proposed Rules”).

I. BACKGROUND

PPI’s Pearl Power Station (“Pearl Station”) was a 22 megawatt coal-fired generating facility. PPI serves ten (10) distribution cooperatives that serve the rural areas of 29 Illinois counties. PPI operated one ash impoundment at the Pearl Station which ceased accepting coal ash prior to May 1, 2012. By letter dated June 8, 2012, PPI notified Illinois EPA that the coal burning steam unit at the Pearl Station was officially decommissioned.

At the direction of Illinois EPA, PPI performed a hydrogeological site investigation at the Pearl Station ash impoundment in 2012 and early 2013. In 2013 and

2014, PPI closed the ash impoundment under the supervision of Illinois EPA and pursuant to an approved closure plan and approved groundwater management zone (“GMZ”). PPI’s closure plan was drafted to meet the requirements of the Site-Specific Rule adopted for the Hutsonville Power Station. *In the Matter of: Ameren Ashpond Closure Rules (Hutsonville Power Station): Proposed 35 Ill. Adm. Code 840.101 through 840.152* (January 20, 2011); 35 Ill. Admin. Code Part 840 (“Hutsonville Site-Specific Rule”).

At Illinois EPA’s request, and with an eye toward satisfying what would be required by the developing rules here, PPI took all necessary actions to complete the closure of the Pearl Station ash impoundment in accordance with the Hutsonville Site-Specific Rule. PPI closed the Pearl Station ash impoundment with a cover system that consisted of a 40 mil HDPE geomembrane and a three foot compacted earth layer, and the cover system was designed and constructed in such a manner which satisfies the requirements of §§ 841.415 and 841.420 of the Illinois EPA’s Proposed Rule.

Groundwater monitoring and post-closure care, in accordance with the established GMZ and Post-Closure Care Plan, is ongoing at the Pearl Station. The work performed by PPI at the Pearl Station ash impoundment involved an enormous expenditure of time and resources, including coordination with Illinois EPA to ensure their approval of the Closure Plan.

II. COMMENT

Under Illinois EPA’s Proposed Rule, PPI would be required to comply with all requirements of the Proposed Part 841 Rules unless the Illinois EPA determined, in its sole discretion, that the closure of the Pearl Station surface impoundment “satisfied the

requirements of this Part.” Proposed 35 Ill. Admin. Code § 841.145. There are no regulatory criteria in the Proposed Rules to guide the Illinois EPA’s exercise of discretion under proposed § 841.145 – no standards, no timeframes, and no procedure for an owner/operator to be notified of the Illinois EPA’s determination as to whether the closure has “satisfied the requirements of this Part.” Moreover, the Proposed Rules do not require Illinois EPA to make or memorialize such a finding.

PPI understands that Illinois EPA is proposing revisions to 35 Ill. Adm. Code § 841.145 and other regulations within the Proposed Rules that would provide PPI with the opportunity to demonstrate that it has met the requirements in the Proposed Rules for closure, as set forth in proposed §§ 841.415 and 841.420, and a post-closure care plan, as set forth in proposed § 841.135, and have the closure deemed complete and the post-closure plan approved. PPI appreciates the Illinois EPA’s efforts to provide more regulatory certainty under the Proposed Rules for sites like the Pearl Station, which have already completed closure in a manner consistent with the Hutsonville Site-Specific Rule and the Proposed Rules and received approval from Illinois EPA for their closure plan. As currently drafted, and notwithstanding PPI’s good faith efforts to complete closure of the Pearl Station ash impoundment in a manner which met all potentially applicable regulatory requirements, § 841.145 of the Proposed Rules provides PPI with no assurance that its closure of the Pearl Station ash impoundment will be approved by Illinois EPA. PPI generally supports the approach that will be proposed by Illinois EPA, and looks forward to participating with Illinois EPA and other parties in review and comment regarding the Illinois EPA’s proposed revisions to ensure that PPI’s significant work to

close the Pearl Station ash impoundment is recognized and subject to approval under the Proposed Rules.

III. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, Prairie Power, Inc., respectfully requests that the Board consider amendments to the Proposed Rules in its first notice opinion and order that would provide PPI with a reasonable option for obtaining relief from the requirements of the Proposed Rules at the Pearl Station ash impoundment, which has been closed in accordance with the requirements of the Hutsonville Site-Specific Rule and §§ 841.415 and 841.420 of the Proposed Rules.

Respectfully submitted,

PRAIRIE POWER INC.,

Dated: October 20, 2014

By: /s/ Jennifer M. Martin
Jennifer M. Martin

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Jennifer M. Martin
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