



STATE OF ILLINOIS
SENATE

SENATOR
MIKE JACOBS
36TH DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
62706

July 11, 2013

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

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CLERK'S OFFICE
JUL 22 2013
STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

P.C. # 24

RE: Public Comment in **Support** of Illinois Power Holdings' Petition, Docket No. 2014-010
(Air-Variance)

Dear Honorable Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

I write to you today to share my strong support for the above referenced variance petition filed by Illinois Power Holdings (IPH), a Dynegy subsidiary, currently pending before the Illinois Pollution Control Board.

Dynegy, an Illinois employer with a strong environmental track-record, has stepped up to help support much-needed union jobs and economic activity in Illinois through the proposed sale of Ameren Energy Resources (AER) to IPH. With this transaction, Dynegy plans to double its operations and investment in Illinois as a responsible neighbor and major employer of well-paying union jobs. As a closing condition under the transaction agreement, if this petition for temporary relief is not granted, environmental and economic benefits are at risk.

Dynegy, through its power generation facilities has been and continues to be an important economic partner in our local, state and regional economies. I serve as the Senator for the 36th district, and the Chairman of the Senate Energy Committee. Not only does Dynegy provide approximately 600 well-paying jobs in Illinois, but Dynegy employees also invest that money back into Illinois, helping to boost household income for all. Dynegy's Illinois facilities further serve as an important source of tax revenue (\$26 million in the 2012 tax year) to help support important public services, including support for our cash-strapped schools and local governments.

Dynegy and its subsidiaries are committed to Illinois and our environment, recently investing \$1 billion in an environmental upgrade program at its Illinois facilities, creating over 2,000 construction jobs across Illinois. IPH is committed to the responsible operation of the AER energy centers and their communities – consistent with the Board-ordered compliance commitments set forth in the existing variance.

We need to encourage Illinois companies to continue to invest in Illinois and support union jobs. With this transaction, Dynegy is doubling its operations and investment in Illinois as a responsible neighbor and major employer of well-paying union jobs.

Regarding the petition before the Board, in September 2012, this Board saw fit to grant a similar variance request by AER, recognizing both the environmental and economic benefits of doing so and finding the variance to be a “net benefit to air quality.” If granted today, the IPH petition will provide continued certainty to the AER employees and Illinois communities that count on the economic benefit of the operation of the AER energy centers. Without the variance, Ameren will be forced to pursue other options for the AER energy centers, creating uncertainty for the plants’ futures and an important part of our state economy.

A vibrant employer climate is essential for the residents in our communities, and even the prospect of potential shutdowns would stifle economic growth and development in Central and Southern Illinois. A successful transfer of the plants to IPH offers the best opportunity for the 700 AER workers, their families and for our communities, a stable tax base that provides critical support for our local schools, emergency response organizations and countless local governments.

As the Chairman of the Senate Energy Committee, I have witnessed Dynegy’s and AER’s commitment to sound energy and environmental policy and cannot underscore enough the importance of the Dynegy and AER power plants the continuation of reliable and affordable electricity and jobs throughout Illinois.

Considering the opportunity before us, I ask the Board to support the IPH petition for temporary relief as the best path forward for improving air quality, while protecting much-needed jobs and economic benefits that we depend upon.

Sincerely,



Mike Jacobs
State Senator
36th District