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July 24, 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 29 2013

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

PC#58

Re: Public Comment in Support of Illinois Power Holdings' Variance Petition

Dear Honorable Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

On behalf of the communities and businesses in our region, Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois is writing in support of the variance petition filed by Illinois Power Holdings (IPH), a Dynegy subsidiary, currently pending before the Illinois Pollution Control Board. It is our understanding that IPH has reached an agreement to purchase power plants currently owned by Ameren Energy Resources (AER).

As a regional development organization, the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois continues to advocate for a balanced approach to environmental regulations that provides flexibility for companies in implementing compliance strategies. In September 2012, this Board saw fit to grant AER's variance request, recognizing both the environmental and economic benefits of doing so. IPH is seeking similar relief and is committed to complying with the compliance conditions previously imposed by the Board.

The petition, if granted, will provide continued certainty to the AER employees, their families and communities that count on the economic benefit the energy centers provide. Obtaining the variance is a closing condition under the Ameren-IPH transaction agreement. Without the variance, Ameren will be forced to pursue other options for the AER energy centers, creating uncertainty about the plants' futures.

These energy centers not only provide well-paying jobs in our community, but also serve as an important source of property tax revenue to help support important public services, including support for our cash-strapped schools. We again ask the Board to give careful thought to the impact to our communities if any of the energy centers were to close due to costly regulations and a dire economic outlook.

Sincerely,

Ellen Krohne
Executive Director