

JASPER COUNTY BOARD

**Ed Mitchell, Chairman
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CLERK'S OFFICE**

AUG 14 2013

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board**

August 9, 2013

Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601

PC# 94
PCB14-10

Re: Ameren Energy Resources - Variance request

I have received notification from legal counsel from your office that Illinois Power Holdings, LLC ("IPH), Ameren Energy Medina Valley Cogen, LLC ("Medina Valley", and Ameren Energy Resources, LLC ("AER") of the Newton Energy Center in Jasper County have filed a petition for variance for the extension of time for sulfur dioxide emission rates deadline. Ameren Energy Resources of Newton Energy Center has been a partner with Jasper County and the surrounding area since 1977. They have always maintained a well-operated facility investing in several areas of their infrastructures, including environmental and emission controls, safety devices, additional cooling ponds to assist aquatic life, etc. They are presently investing more than five hundred million (500,000,000) dollars in the addition of a new state of the art scrubber to prevent or greatly reduce sulfur dioxide emissions. Due to the poor economy and a very slow economic recovery an extension of time should be considered.

Ameren Energy Resources is a strong partner for economic development within the county as they are a major employee. They contribute more than seven a one half (7.5)million dollars in real estate taxes to Jasper County, Jasper County School District # One, Illinois Eastern Community College, Newton Library, South Muddy Township, Wade Fire District and University of Illinois Extension. This amount is slightly over half of the total property taxes extended for all the taxing bodies. The local school district receives approximately fifty (50) percent, Jasper County twenty (20) percent, and the junior college about sixteen (16) percent of these tax dollars.

The Jasper County Board recognized that Ameren Energy Center in Newton is a viable participant in the stability of Newton, Jasper County, Jasper County Schools, and the surrounding counties. It would be devastating for this facility to suddenly have to shut down. The effect would be devastating for school districts, all units of local governments, as well as the citizens of Jasper County and surrounding area.

The Jasper County Board would encourage you to evaluate the complex issue of the variance requested and grant assistance for our valuable economic partner. Thank you for your understanding in this complex issue.

Sincerely,

Ed Mitchell

Ed Mitchell, County Board Chairman

cc: Mayor Mark Bolander -Newton
Supt. Dan Cox - Jasper Unit # 1