

SEP 25 2000

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

Illinois Pollution Board
100west Randolph St. suite 11-500
Chicago, IL. 60601

Ron Molinaro
542 Whitney Ave.
Winthrop Harbor, IL. 60096

R01-10
P.C.#3

Dear Pollution Board Members,

I am writing you to express my concerns about the possible construction of 2 peaker power plants in Zion. I have many issues with these plants from the amount of air and noise pollution they create, to the amount of water they use. It is my understanding that the state of Illinois is operating under 20 year old guidelines established for coal plants.

In an apx. 10-mile radius of the Zion area, we already have two coal burning plants, one in Waukegan IL. another in Pleasant Parrie WI. One of my concerns, as well as that of many of the area residents, is the accumulated effect these plants will have on our overall air quality. We are already in an area that has been considered to have poor air quality. My fear is that on a hot summer days, when all these plants are in operation, our neighborhoods will be covered with a cloud of smog. This would force anyone with any type of respiratory disease to be a prisoner of their own home, and force them to stay indoors. This is hardly fair to all those who have invested their life saving into their homes and the community in which they live.

The next cause for concern is the noise. I find it difficult to believe that a development of this size would not be heard from the nearest home, which is only a few hundred yards away, as the developers of this plant would like us to believe.

Thirdly, there is the amount of water used. These plants can consume up 2 million gallons of water a day. At a recent Zion City Council meeting a gentlemen who owns a local confectionery co. spoke of the possibility of the expansion of his business. When checking into the accessibility of additional water he discovered that the city of Zion exceeded its allocated amount for 1999 by 22 million gallons. If we were to allow these plants to be constructed in Zion, will there be enough water allocated for the expansion of existing business or the construction of new homes? This is a question that needs to be answered before we allow any power plants to be constructed in this region.

Finally, there is the issue of the economics of peaker power plants. In conversations I have had with a few of my friends who have lived in California, they expressed to me the concerns of how the cost of electricity skyrocketed after de-regulation. Will that have the same effect on us? We all know that the owners of these companies are going sell their electricity to the highest bidder. Is this going to cause an increase in our electric bills? We have already been told to prepare for our natural gas bills to increase due to possible shortages caused by peaker plants consumption of natural gas.