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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
*Pollution Control Board*

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
207 STATE CAPITOL, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

GEORGE H. RYAN  
GOVERNOR

July 6, 2000

Claire Manning  
Chairman  
Illinois Pollution Control Board  
600 South Second  
Floor 4, Suite 402  
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Chairman Manning:

I have recently received a great deal of public comment over potential environmental threats caused by the recent proliferation in Illinois of new, natural gas-fired, peak-load electrical power generating facilities, known as "peaker plants." The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency currently reviews proposed peaker plants for compliance with Federal air emission requirements. In response to a recent inquiry, the United States Environmental Protection Agency confirmed that Illinois EPA is applying those requirements appropriately. Given the public interest in peaker plants, however, I also believe it would be beneficial for the Illinois Pollution Control Board to conduct inquiry hearings on the issue, pursuant to the Board's authority under the Illinois Environmental Protection Act and regulations promulgated thereunder. Accordingly, I request that the Board hold public hearings and request public comment on the following issues:

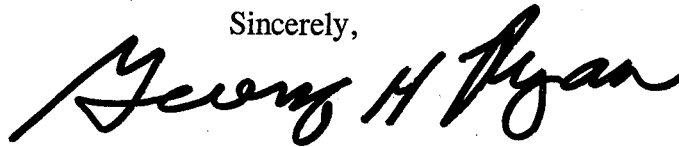
1. Do peaker plants need to be regulated more strictly than Illinois' current air quality statutes and regulations provide?
2. Do peaker plants pose a unique threat, or a greater threat than other types of State-regulated facilities, with respect to air pollution, noise pollution, or groundwater or surface water pollution?
3. Should new or expanding peaker plants be subject to siting requirements beyond applicable local zoning requirements?

4. If the Board determines that peaker plants should be more strictly regulated or restricted, should additional regulations or restrictions apply to currently permitted facilities or only to new facilities and expansions?
5. How do other states regulate or restrict peaker plants?

I have asked the Directors of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Department of Commerce & Community Affairs and the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, and the Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission, to have members of their respective staffs appear before the Board and participate in these proceedings to help develop a complete record. Illinois EPA Director Tom Skinner stands ready to have his staff appear and participate as well.

At the conclusion of the Board's proceedings, I ask that the Board issue a written decision, available to the public, in which the Board makes its findings, based on the evidence and public comment received. I ask that the Board's decision include the Board's recommendation on whether any additional requirements should be imposed on peaker plants to safeguard the environment and, if so, whether future rulemaking or legislative action is appropriate to accomplish that objective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George H. Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

GEORGE H. RYAN  
Governor

cc: Thomas V. Skinner  
Director, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

GHR/rc