

JASPER COUNTY BOARD

Ed Mitchell, Chairman
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RECEIVED
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 31 2012

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

May 24, 2012

Clerk of the Board
Illinois Pollution Control Board
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

P.C.#5

Re: Ameren Energy Resources - Variance request

I have received notification from legal counsel from your office that Ameren Generating of Illinois owner of the Newton Energy Center in Jasper County has requested a variance for the extension of time for the 2015 and 2017 sulfur dioxide emission rates. Ameren Energy Generating Company's 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 one half billion dollars in the addition of a new state of the art scrubber to prevent or greatly reduce sulfur dioxide emissions. At the present time, I believe that they have completed the concrete silo for this new scrubber system. Due to the poor economy and a very slow economic recovery an extension of time should be considered.

Ameren Energy is a strong partner for economic development within the county as they employ between 170 and 200 area residents. They contribute more than seven (7) million dollars in real estate taxes to Jasper County, Jasper County School District # one, Illinois Eastern Community College, Newton Library, South Muddy Township, and Wade Fire District. This amount is slightly over half of the total property taxes extended for all the taxing bodies. The overall economic benefit to Jasper County is more than fifty-five (55) million dollars per year. Ameren Energy is also and an active member in the Newton and Jasper County Economic Development Cooperative which is composed of the University of Illinois Extension, City of Newton, Jasper County Board, and over fifty (50) area business partners.

The Jasper County Board recognized that Ameren Generating Company's Newton Energy Center 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 "go dark". The effect would be bankruptcy for the 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