

VILLAGE OF HUTSONVILLE

On The Banks of The Wabash
P O Box 277 - Hutsonville, IL 62433

August 6, 2012

Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board
c/o John Therriault, Assistant Clerk
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601-3218

Pct# 2196

Re: Ameren Energy's Petition for Variance from IL Multi-Pollutant Standard: PCB 12-126

Dear Honorable Members of the Board:

I am writing to you today to share my support for Ameren Energy Resources (AER) and its request to extend the deadline for upgrading its energy stations to meet new state emission standards.

As the President of the Board of Trustees for the Village of Hutsonville, I know that AER is an important proponent of our area's local economy. Ameren's Newton plant absorbed over two dozen employees who lost their jobs at the Hutsonville Power Station just a few months ago when that plant was shuttered at the end of 2011 due to stringent emission standards. These well-paying jobs boost the household income and spur economic development in our communities. Ameren's plant is an imperative source of property tax revenue which in turn supports essential public services like education and public safety.

I understand the interest for Illinois to deploy strict regulation. However, in this time of economic hardship, AER does not have the financial resources to immediately meet the Illinois emission requirements. If its requested relief is not granted, then it would be forced to take drastic action and shutter some of its energy centers. Not only will that harm the quality of our area communities, it will also have a negative effect on the state's economy.

AEER is not asking for a waiver from your standards; rather an extension of time to pay for pollution control without having to cut jobs to pay for it. I implore the Board to support AER's petition for temporary relief. The welfare of Newton and the surrounding communities depend on it and you.

Sincerely,

WB Gray

W. B. Gray
Village President