

## INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD ØF ELECTRICAL WORKERS AFL-CIO, CLC

Chicago, IL 60601-3218

EDWIN D. HILL SAL International President International S

SALVATORE J. CHILIA International Secretary-Treasurer



**Re:** Public Comment in **Support** of Illinois Power Holdings' Petition, Docket No. 2018 - 10 (Air-Variance)

Dear Honorable Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board,

As International Vice President for the Sixth District of the IBEW I write to you today to express our support for approval of the above mentioned variance request by Illinois Power Holdings (IPH), a Dynegy subsidiary.

Ameren Energy Resources (AER) and Dynegy are important employers of highly skilled Illinois workers, with collective bargaining agreements, and both companies provide strong economic benefits to the State of Illinois and their local communities. These companies are additionally responsible for the employment of hundreds of highly skilled union construction electricians and lineman through their capital projects. Their support for working families and local economies across Illinois is particularly important during these continued trying economic times, which remain especially harsh in Central and Southern Illinois.

Dynegy has stepped up to help support much-needed union jobs and economic activity in Illinois through IPH's proposed acquisition of AER. With this transaction, Dynegy plans to double its operations and investment in Illinois as a responsible neighbor and major employer offering highly-skilled, well-paying union jobs.

In September 2012, the Illinois Pollution Control Board granted AER's variance request, recognizing both the environmental and economic benefits of doing so. IPH is seeking similar relief and is committed to complying with the compliance conditions previously imposed by the Board. As a closing condition under the transaction agreement, if this petition for temporary relief is not granted these environmental and economic benefits will be at risk.

A successful transfer of the plants to IPH offers the best opportunity for the hard-working union members, their families and our communities in addition to a stable tax base that provides critical support for our local schools, emergency response organizations and countless local governments.

We urge the Board to improve air quality and support much-needed union jobs by granting IPH's petition for the requested temporary relief.

Sincerely,

Lonnie Stephenson

Lonnie R. Stephenson International Vice President Sixth District, IBEW

LRS/jmp