



*We Inspire - We Lead - We Teach & Learn
Educate Everyone, Everyday, Everyway*

Jasper County Community Unit #1

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Phone: 618/783-8459 Fax: 618/783-3679
Dan Cox, Superintendent*

PC# 618

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SEP 18 2013

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board**

September 16, 2013

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

Re: Public Comment in **Support** of Illinois Power Holdings' Petition, Docket No. 2014-010 (Air-Variance)

Dear Honorable Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board,

As the Superintendent of Schools and a resident of Jasper County, I write to you today to express my support for the above mentioned variance request by Illinois Power Holdings (IPH), a Dynegy subsidiary. In September 2012, the Illinois Pollution Control Board saw fit to grant Ameren Energy Resources' (AER) variance request, recognizing both the environmental and economic benefits of doing so. The variance request applies to the Newton Power Station, a facility in my community. I urge the Board to grant IPH's petition so that the benefits to my community are not lost.

If granted, IPH will help provide certainty to the employees and communities in Central and Southern Illinois that count on the economic benefit of the continued operation of these facilities. Dynegy is an Illinois employer with a strong environmental track-record. The variance is a closing condition under the Ameren-IPH transaction agreement. Without the variance, Ameren will be forced to pursue other options for the AER energy centers, creating uncertainty for the future of the plants and those who depend upon them – including our community and our regional economy.

A vibrant business climate is essential for the residents in our communities, and even the prospect of potential shutdowns would stifle economic growth and development in Central and Southern Illinois.

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

Considering the harsh facts and the opportunity to improve air quality, while supporting much-needed union jobs and economic benefits, I urge the Board to please support IPH's petition for the requested temporary relief. The welfare of our future depends on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan W. Cox", written over a horizontal line.

Dan W. Cox, Superintendent of Schools