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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

BRANDON W. PHELPS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
118TH DISTRICT

September 20, 2013

PC# 2335

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:

In light of the recent Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB) public hearing for Illinois Power Holdings' (IPH) variance petition, I would like to reiterate and stress support for IPH's request on behalf of the people, communities and businesses in my district. The seriousness of the request and the need to foster a positive business climate to support a struggling Illinois economy compels me to further express my support, and ask you once more to approve IPH's variance request.

I currently serve as the elected State Representative for IL District 118 and I am concerned about the economic well-being of our Central and Southern Illinois economy. Ameren Energy Resources (AER) Joppa Energy Center is located within my district in Massac County. Right now the future of the Joppa Energy Plant is not bright, and uncertainty is causing enormous amounts of distress to the individuals and families that depend on the facility.

The AER Joppa Energy Center helps provide a high degree of certainty not only to the individuals, families and businesses in Massac County, but also to those throughout Illinois. The center generates a statewide economic impact of more than \$193,530,000, pays \$850,000 in annual local property taxes, supports 725 Illinois jobs and generates more than \$46,007,000 in annual household earnings for Illinois residents. The survival of the Joppa Energy Center is vital to my district, and many benefits will be lost if IPH's request is not granted.

Ameren Energy Resources (AER) has previously shared with the Board the positive economic and job benefits the energy centers have on the local and State economy.

These facilities employ hard-working union workers and serve as a vital economic engine for my district, the region and the state of Illinois. Not only does AER currently provide well-paying jobs in our community, but AER employees also invest that money back into the community helping to boost household income for all. The energy centers further serve as an important source of property tax revenue to help support important public services, including support for our cash-strapped schools.

In September 2012, this Board saw fit to grant AER's variance request, recognizing both the environmental and economic benefits of doing so, and finding the variance to be a "net benefit to air quality." It is important to note that all of the relevant market and economic conditions that led to the need for the existing variance remain substantially unchanged. IPH's variance petition does not seek any more relief than what the Board granted in the existing variance and the environmental benefits found by the Board in the previous variance would continue.

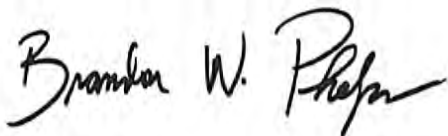
Indeed, IPH has agreed to a cap on SO2 emissions to ensure that the environmental benefits of the variance during its ownership are realized; such a cap is significantly more stringent than the existing variance. IPH also has agreed to accept as additional conditions of the variance the requirements to (i) burn low sulfur coal at the Joppa, Edwards and Newton energy centers, and (ii) operate the existing FGD systems at the Duck Creek and Coffeen centers at 98% or greater removal efficiency.

Dynegy has also entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), which will realize additional environmental benefits such as: (1) Retirement of AER's Edwards Unit 1 as soon as allowed by the MISO, which will reduce SO2 emissions as well as water usage, (2) Permanent retirement of the air permits for Dynegy's Stallings and Oglesby plants, and (3) Implementation of an energy efficiency project at Dynegy's Kendall plant.

These additional conditions and commitments further demonstrate that Dynegy and its subsidiaries are committed to Illinois and our environment, to the responsible operation of the AER energy centers, and to their communities. IPH's request is both economically and environmentally responsible. The variance not only ensures reduced emissions and high environmental standards, but it also protects the economic livelihoods of Illinois families.

Illinois cannot afford to lose any more jobs. I ask the Board to support the IPH petition for temporary relief as the best path forward for improving air quality, while protecting much-needed jobs and economic benefits that we depend upon.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon W. Phelps". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brandon W. Phelps,
IL House of Representatives – District 118