ICC public hearing in Hillsboro, IL

Good Afternoon, my name is Donnie Nowell I work at the Coffeen Power Plant.

Thank You to everyone for this opportunity to voice our concerns on this very important subject affecting power generation in southern Illinois.

As I understand it the proposed rule(s) will change the way emissions from power plants are treated and ensure a more fair bidding process allowing generators to be compensated for not only the power produced, but also, the power they are able to produce.

My concerns are that the emissions rules will be written so as not to negatively affect the Coffeen Power Plant, which has been recognized for many years, as being the lowest emitter of sulfur dioxide in the world. The ability to produce clean power comes with a higher cost. In short the rules need to be written to prevent producers from shutting down the cleanest, more expensive plants.

The other concern is that generators are able to reliably produce electricity and are fairly compensated in southern Illinois. As you may know there are many fixed costs associated with electricity production. Illinois coal plants are not being fairly compensated for these capacity cost, as a result, repairs and improvements are being delayed, jeopardizing reliability. It is not just a matter of other in state producers receiving subsidies. Often times we cannot get our power onto the lines due to “line congestion”, and that line congestion comes from out of state generators pushing power into and thru Illinois to more lucrative markets. These out of state generators are not subjected to the same pollution and pricing rules which constrain southern Illinois generators.

In closing, it is my hope the rule changes will ensure the cleanest power plants will be the primary generators and they will be fairly compensated thru the bidding process, preserving southern Illinois jobs and tax revenue, not importing the generation and giving the jobs and tax revenue to other states.

Thank You,

Donnie A Nowell

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