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June 18, 2003

Mr. Jerry Weller
Congressman Weller's District Office
2701 Black Rd., Suite 201
Joliet, IL 60435

RECEIVED
Division of Legal Counsel
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Environmental Protection
Agency

Dear Congressman Weller:

I am just your regular tax-paying citizen whom happens to reside in the Village of Elwood. I am very concerned about the welfare of my community. I understand that you have been very involved in the redevelopment project of the former Joliet Arsenal and have been on the receiving end of much praise for the commerce that will be brought to our area. I have been following many articles and attending meetings about the progress of this development. I have attached an article dated Oct. 14, 2002 from your website listing as to what the new industrial park was going to contain. I would like to quote a paragraph from your article... "After successfully lobbying both state and federal officials, Weller passed the Illinois Land Conservation Act through both houses of Congress on December 15, 1995. On February 10, 1996, the President signed Weller's bill into law, creating the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, a veterans cemetery named in honor of Abraham Lincoln, and two industrial parks to replace the jobs lost during the Army's departure from the site." The article also mentions the types of businesses that the "2,200-acre" site would contain. The two industrial parks will include "a billion dollar truck-rail intermodal freight facility", and "17 million square feet of space for distribution and warehouse and light manufacturing uses." As you can see Congressman, the abovementioned businesses will not pose any immediate threat or endanger my community, nor do they include the construction of a power plant. Many of the other articles I have read mention the same types of businesses as your website. I have also enclosed pages copied from the Village of Elwood's website showing a map of the area and the zoning regions, which again, does not mention a power plant.

Until May 22, 2003, I didn't fear too much about the progress of our community. I understand that growth is inevitable and we will have to deal with the increased traffic issues and the like. But on this day, an article was brought to my attention regarding a **Coal Burning Power Plant** proposed by Indeck Energy Services, Inc. I tried to attend the EPA's public hearing that night, which was held in our community church. The hearing was limited to 100 people because of the size of venue chosen. Unfortunately I was not among the first 100 to arrive, so I was told I could not attend and must stand outside. I contacted Mr. Robert Blum, Mayor of Elwood the next morning and he confirmed that this power plant was indeed coming to our village.

I personally do not feel that this power plant will benefit our local residents nor is it in the best interest of our community. It will emit not only air and water pollutants but noise pollution as well. (Please see attached articles) The proposed location of this facility will be one mile from our quaint, quiet village. I have enclosed a presentation dated January 16, 2002 from CenterPoint Intermodel Center on "The Redevelopment of the Former Joliet Army Ammunition Plant". It was originally proposed as "A clean burning, gas-fired electric power plant..." How all of a sudden did we get from a clean natural gas plant to a dirty coal burning plant? I do not want to look out my window and see three 550 feet tall smoke stacks' releasing all the pollutions the EPA has mentioned. Not to mention listening to the rumble that the turbines and feed pumps will generate. I also understand there are dramatic water concerns that need to be addressed. I do not see how this project can be endorsed. Illinois has already deemed the local coal unsafe to burn and forced existing power plants to burn western coal (see attached article). The limestone technology proposed to "clean" the coal has not been proven at this magnitude. How can we test something so close to residents' homes? We should not be the guinea pigs for such a project. I have enclosed an article written by a resident that lived within a mile from a power plant in Rhode Island and then was forced to leave their home. **Please read it...** it shows you the dramatic threat this power plant truly brings to our community. I do not want this to happen to me or other Elwood residents.

I need to ask you Sir, as my congressman, how do you plan to proceed on the issue of this Coal Burning Power Plant. I voted for you, because I felt you were addressing the concerns of our area with diligence and pride, and would not sacrifice the well being of our communities for a few tax dollars. I hope that you will reply with assurance that this power plant will not be constructed so close to our village. I would like to put my, and also fellow resident's, fears to rest.

I have participated in obtaining signatures on a petition to ban the construction of this facility proposed by Indeck. The petition consists of 351 signatures and has been enclosed with this letter. A power plant of this magnitude polluting our environment is not necessary. There are many major power plants within a 25-mile area of our town. This is NOT counting the numerous peaker plants that have surfaced recently in surrounding villages. I read an article recently stating that Illinois has a 30% surplus of power, so why is another plant necessary? A representative from Indeck stated last night at a town meeting that "if they could not sell the power, they wouldn't build their plant". Well if we have a surplus of power already, why are we even entertaining the idea of building yet another power plant? And now I hear there will be a nuclear facility built in Clinton, IL. We do not need this dirty coal plant, let alone having it one mile outside of the village of Elwood.

I am very disappointed in my governing bodies at the lack of information that has been made available to the general public. I want to point out again that the information on your website, as well as the website for the Village of Elwood, does not disclose the idea of another power plant coming to our area. The communication with the taxpayers is very poor. We need to work on educating the people on all issues, not just the ones where we can pat ourselves on the back, but also the controversial and frightening issues that may be a little more difficult to deal with. These issues need to be advised and addressed, before it's too late. I do not want to pay the high price for this type of growth in my community. The tax benefits that may surface 23 years from now are not worth it! The gentleman from Indeck stated last night that they have "a right" to build this power plant and to also use our water. **Don't WE (the village of Elwood residents) "have a right" to clean air, peaceful quiet evenings and peace of mind that our homes are safe and maintain their property values?**

I will also be copying the contents of my package to the Village of Elwood, the Governor's office as well as the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. I hope that you will listen to the voices of our Village and proceed accordingly by **NOT** allowing this power plant to be constructed.

With best regards,



Deanna Colbert

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