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BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
BUREAU OF AIR

PUBLIC HEARING FOR CAAPP PERMITS
FOR AMEREN-DUCK CREEK, AMEREN-EDWARDS,
AND MIDWEST GENERATION-POWERTON

Hearing held, pursuant to notice, on August 21,
2003, at the hour of 7:00 p.m., at 200 N.E. Water
Street, Peoria, Illinois, before CHARLES MATOESIAN,
duly appointed Hearing Officer.

PATKES REPORTING SERVICE
(217) 787-9314

REPORTER: LAUREL A. PATKES, CSR #084-001340

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1 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Good
2 evening, ladies and gentlemen.

3 Let the record show that this is a
4 public hearing before the Illinois Environmental
5 Protection Agency, Bureau of Air, in the matter of
6 the proposed issuance of a Clean Air Act Permit
7 Program permit to Midwest Generation's Powerton
8 plant and Central Illinois Light Company's Duck
9 Creek and E.D. Edwards plants.

10 Midwest Generation EMELLC located at
11 440 South LaSalle Street, Suite 3500 in Chicago has
12 requested Clean Air Act Permit Program or CAAPP
13 permits from the Illinois Environmental Protection
14 Agency for its Powerton plant in Pekin.

15 The Powerton plant is located at 13082
16 East Manito Road in Pekin and has four coal-fired
17 boilers and other related emissions units.

18 Central Illinois Light Company doing
19 business as AmerenCILCO located at 1901 Chouteau
20 Avenue in St. Louis Missouri has requested Clean Air
21 Act Permit Program permits from the Illinois EPA for
22 its Duck Creek and E.D. Edwards coal-fired power
23 plants.

24 The Duck Creek power plant is located

1 at 17751 North CILCO Road in Canton and has a
2 coal-fired boiler, an oil-fired peaking turbine, and
3 other related emission units.

4 The E.D. Edwards power plant is
5 located at 7800 South CILCO Lane in Bartonville and
6 has three coal-fired boilers and other related
7 emission units.

8 The CAAPP is Illinois' operating
9 permit program for the major sources of emissions as
10 required by Title V Clean Air Act. The conditions
11 of CAAPP permits are enforceable by the public as
12 well as by the United States EPA and Illinois.

13 CAAPP permits may contain new and
14 revised conditions established under permit programs
15 for new and modified emission units pursuant to
16 Title I of the federal Clean Air Act thereby making
17 them combine Title V and Title I permits.

18 The purpose of this hearing is to
19 receive comment and data and to answer questions
20 from the public prior to making final decisions
21 concerning these two applications.

22 Lengthy comments and questions should
23 be submitted to the Illinois EPA in writing.
24 Written comments must be postmarked by midnight

1 September 28, 2003.

2 Comments need not be notarized and
3 should be sent to myself, the Illinois EPA Hearing
4 Officer, regarding the Powerton, Duck Creek, and
5 Edwards CAAPP at 1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O.
6 Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276.

7 That information is available at the
8 registration table.

9 Finally, this hearing is being held
10 under the provisions of Subpart A of the Illinois
11 EPA's procedures for permit and closure plans
12 regulations found at 35 Illinois Administrative
13 Code, Section 166.

14 Notice of this hearing was placed in
15 the Peoria Journal Star with the run dates of
16 June 27th, July 4th, and July 11th, all of 2003.

17 On behalf of Renee Cipriano, the
18 Director of the Illinois EPA, the agency and myself,
19 I thank you all for coming, and we will start now
20 with the presentation by one of the EPA staff,
21 Mr. Chris Romaine.

22 MR. ROMAINE: Good evening. Thank you
23 again for coming to tonight's hearing.

24 I'm going to provide some general

1 background information for tonight's hearing.
2 However, first I want to stress that we are here to
3 discuss operating permits.

4 As operating permits, these permits
5 would not address or authorize construction of new
6 generating units at these power plants.

7 These operating permits would be
8 issued pursuant to Title V of the federal Clean Air
9 Act which created a federal operating permit program
10 for major sources of emissions.

11 Nationally, this program is known as
12 the Title V permit program. In Illinois, this
13 program is known as the Clean Air Act Permit
14 Program. The acronym is CAAPP pronounced cap. The
15 terms CAAPP and Title V are synonymous in Illinois,
16 and we often use these terms interchangeably when
17 referring to these permits.

18 I want to share with you what the
19 United States EPA says about the Title V permits.
20 Quote: "The purpose of Title V permits is to reduce
21 violations of air pollution laws and improve
22 enforcement of those laws." Unquote.

23 Title V of the Clean Air Act achieves
24 it's objectives first by requiring that each major

1 source is covered by a single permit that addresses
2 all the emission units and activities at the source.

3 Before Title V, a major source in
4 Illinois could have several operating permits, each
5 one addressing several different operations at the
6 source.

7 Second, Clean Air Act permits must be
8 comprehensive addressing all applicable air
9 pollution control requirements. This will improve
10 the awareness and understanding of the emission
11 standards that apply to a source and the various
12 compliance procedures that a source must carry out
13 to demonstrate compliance with these standards.

14 Given the complexity of the state and
15 federal requirements for air pollution control, it
16 is widely accepted that a comprehensive permit will
17 facilitate compliance by major sources as that
18 permit summarizes and acts as a guide to the various
19 requirements that apply to the source.

20 This is certainly very important for
21 the general public who may be unfamiliar with the
22 rules that apply to a source.

23 A comprehensive permit is certainly
24 important for the various management and operating

1 personnel at a source so that obligations are
2 understood and nothing is neglected or overlooked.

3 A comprehensive permit is also
4 important for the staff of the Illinois EPA as it
5 facilitates a thorough and consistent approach in
6 the various activities that we undertake to verify
7 and track compliance.

8 Third, Clean Air Act permits add to
9 the compliance checks put on a source, thereby
10 providing additional protection of our air quality.

11 As such, the public should generally
12 endorse the issuance of these permits, especially
13 for sources with which they have concerns about
14 emissions.

15 Quite simply, air quality is better
16 protected if a major source is covered by a Clean
17 Air Act permit.

18 One compliance benefit of Clean Air
19 Act permits is gap filling. Clean Air Act permits
20 can fill in gaps in the recordkeeping and other
21 compliance procedures contained in existing rules
22 requiring sources to carry out additional procedures
23 to show compliance with applicable control
24 requirements.

1 This is particularly important for
2 some of the older air pollution control rules where
3 emission control requirements were adopted but the
4 rulemaking did not address or specify any associated
5 compliance procedures.

6 The other major compliance benefit of
7 Clean Air Act permits is additional reporting by a
8 source related to compliance.

9 Effectively, Clean Air Act permits
10 make sources publicly accountable for their
11 compliance status.

12 This is first accomplished by
13 requiring a source to promptly report all deviations
14 from applicable requirements. Depending on the
15 nature and significance of the deviation, reporting
16 may be required immediately, within 30 days, or in a
17 regular quarterly or semiannual compliance report.

18 Second, sources are held directly
19 accountable for their compliance status because on
20 an annual basis they must submit a compliance
21 certification.

22 This requires a source to review its
23 compliance status during the previous year and
24 formally report its findings, including a

1 determination whether each emission unit was in full
2 compliance, intermittent compliance, or
3 noncompliance during the previous year.

4 Accordingly, issuance of Clean Air Act
5 permits to these power plants is a good thing.
6 These permits will help assure that these plants
7 fully comply with the existing limits and other
8 regulatory requirements that restrict their
9 emissions.

10 These permits will do this by
11 summarizing emission control requirements in a
12 single comprehensive permit, clarifying the
13 provisions of certain rules, filling in certain gaps
14 in the compliance procedures in existing rules, and
15 requiring additional reporting related to
16 compliance.

17 We are certainly very interested in
18 any suggestions that you have to improve the permits
19 in this regard.

20 However, it should be understood that
21 coal-fired power plants like these plants are
22 already some of the most closely monitored sources
23 in the state with continuous emission monitors
24 already in place for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides

1 and opacity.

2 At the same time, the Clean Air Act
3 permits for these power plants are not a means to
4 generally set new requirements to control the
5 emissions from these sources. We do not have broad
6 legal authority in Clean Air Act permits to
7 establish new requirements to further control
8 emissions from existing sources.

9 Instead, the development of control
10 requirements for existing sources, like these power
11 plants, generally occurs with the adoption of new
12 laws and rules. This ensures that all sources in a
13 particular category are considered and treated
14 fairly and that overall environmental goals are
15 efficiently achieved.

16 For coal-fired power plants, this big
17 picture approach is very important. This is because
18 an individual power plant generally has a small
19 impact on the air quality in the immediate vicinity
20 of the plant given the emission control requirements
21 that currently apply to coal-fired power plants.

22 However, the effect of a single plant
23 extends over a large area so that power plants as a
24 group do contribute significantly to background

1 levels of pollution throughout the state.

2 In other words, to effectively control
3 or further reduce the impacts of coal-fired power
4 plants on air quality, many power plants must be
5 further controlled, ideally on a regional or
6 national basis.

7 This is what has occurred and what
8 should continue to occur for coal-fired power plants
9 in Illinois separate from the Clean Air Act permits
10 proposed for these particular power plants.

11 In particular, in 1995, the national
12 Acid Rain Program began requiring reductions in
13 annual emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen
14 oxides from coal-fired power plants.

15 In May of this year, a state-based
16 rule became effective in Illinois requiring
17 electrical generating units to reduce emissions of
18 nitrogen oxides during a five-month long summer
19 ozone season. This rule will reduce total nitrogen
20 oxide emissions from affected units by about half.

21 In 2004, next year, the Regional
22 Trading Program will begin requiring even more
23 reductions in nitrogen oxide emissions at power
24 plants during the summer months covering over 20

1 eastern states including Illinois.

2 These regulatory programs have and
3 will substantially reduce the emissions of two key
4 pollutants emitted from existing coal-fired power
5 plants.

6 Additional reductions beyond these
7 adopted programs are also planned. At the national
8 level, President Bush, with support from the United
9 States EPA, is recommending that Congress adopt a
10 law called "Clear Skies" to further control
11 emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from
12 coal-fired power plants and also to begin control of
13 emissions of mercury on a national basis.

14 The future levels of power plant
15 emissions under the Clear Skies program and the form
16 and schedule for the reductions in emissions are
17 subjects that are currently being debated at the
18 national level.

19 At the state level, the Illinois
20 legislature has already adopted a law requiring the
21 Illinois EPA to evaluate further emission controls
22 for power plants in Illinois.

23 The Illinois EPA must submit its
24 report back to the legislature by September 30, 2004

1 and may then proceed to propose rules for further
2 control of emissions consistent with its findings.

3 As with the national proposal for a
4 Clear Skies program, the Illinois EPA expects its
5 report and subsequent rulemaking to be the subject
6 of much public debate.

7 In any event, when the next new
8 program is adopted to control emissions from
9 existing power plants, the Clean Air Act permits
10 will again be one of the tools that is used to
11 assure that these sources comply with the newly
12 adopted requirements.

13 Also, as I know you are all aware,
14 coal-fired power plants are not the only sources of
15 emissions. In particular, cars, trucks, and busses
16 still represent the largest source sector for
17 emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic
18 material. Manufacturing plants also contribute
19 significantly to air quality.

20 Regulatory programs are in place and
21 continue to be developed to reduce the emissions
22 from sources other than power plants. These
23 emission reductions also contribute to the steady
24 year-by-year improvements in air quality in

1 Illinois.

2 As a final topic with respect to
3 tonight's hearing, we are here to provide you with
4 information. More importantly, we are here to
5 listen to your comments and concerns. Your comments
6 can, and often do, affect the contents of permits so
7 please make your concerns known to us.

8 Following consideration of your
9 concerns and comments, we will prepare a revised
10 permit known as a proposed permit. These permits
11 will be sent to USEPA for its review.

12 It is very important that you state
13 your concerns either at this hearing or in written
14 comments so that as possible and legally allowed, we
15 can address them in the proposed permits.

16 When USEPA reviews the proposed
17 permits for these plans, USEPA will also be
18 interested in seeing your comments and how we
19 addressed them. This is only possible if you state
20 your concerns either here tonight on the hearing
21 record or, alternatively, send the comments to us in
22 writing prior to the close of the comment period.
23 This is also necessary to establish your rights
24 should you eventually wish to object to any of the

1 permits issued to these plants.

2 That concludes my opening remarks.

3 I'd now like to turn the microphone
4 over to Manish Patel to provide a brief description
5 of these plants.

6 MR. PATEL: Thank you.

7 Good evening, everybody. My name is
8 Manish Patel. John Cashman who is sitting next to
9 me and I are engineers in the Permit Section, Bureau
10 of Air, Illinois EPA.

11 Our duties include reviewing air
12 pollution permit applications for various types of
13 station emission sources, and we reviewed the
14 applications for the Clean Air Act Permit Program
15 permits that are the subject of tonight's hearing.

16 I would like to thank you all for
17 coming here to express your interest in the draft
18 permits that we have prepared for the three
19 coal-fired power plants in the greater Peoria area.

20 Two of these plants are now operated
21 by AmerenCILCO; the Duck Creek plant near Canton,
22 and the E.D. Edwards plant in Bartonville.

23 The third power plant, the Powerton
24 plant south of Pekin, is operated by Midwest

1 Generation.

2 These plants are existing power
3 generating plants. The principle emission units at
4 the plants are the coal-fired boilers. Duck Creek
5 has only one coal-fired boiler, Edwards has three
6 coal-fired boilers, and Powerton has four coal-fired
7 boilers.

8 The emissions from the coal-fired
9 boilers are controlled by a combination of operating
10 practices, boiler features, and add-on control
11 equipment. Particulate matter emissions from all
12 the boilers are controlled by add-on electrostatic
13 precipitators that use electrical attraction to
14 remove dust from exhaust.

15 The Edwards and Powerton plants comply
16 with requirements for sulfur dioxide emissions by
17 burning low sulfur coal. An add-on scrubber is used
18 at Duck Creek to control sulfur dioxide emissions.
19 Nitrogen oxide emissions at all plants are minimized
20 by low-NOx burners and burner over-fire air systems.

21 In addition, the boiler at Duck Creek
22 and one of the boilers at Edwards also use add-on
23 selective catalytic reduction systems on an as
24 needed basis to further control nitrogen oxide

1 emissions.

2 The three power plants are required to
3 obtain Clean Air Act Permit Program permits because
4 they are major source of emissions.

5 The Clean Air Act Permit Program
6 permits specify applicable state and federal
7 regulations that apply to the plants including
8 emission limitations, monitoring requirements, and
9 recordkeeping and reporting requirements. This
10 includes requirements for the new regional trading
11 program that becomes effective in 2004.

12 One of the key requirements applying
13 to these plants is that they must operate and
14 maintain continuous monitors on the coal-fired
15 boilers to measure the nitrogen oxide and sulfur
16 dioxide emissions and the opacity of the exhaust
17 from the stacks.

18 AmerenCILCO and Midwest Generation
19 must operate these systems in accordance with the
20 protocols under the federal Acid Rain Program.
21 These monitors provide very reliable information to
22 verify compliance with applicable emission control
23 requirements.

24 In closing, I welcome your questions

1 and comments.

2 Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you,
4 gentlemen.

5 Now we'll proceed to the public
6 comments. However, first I would like to enter a
7 few items into the record as exhibits.

8 First is a copy of the public notice
9 that was placed in the Peoria Journal Star.

10 Exhibit No. 2 is a copy of the order
11 form showing the run dates for that notice.

12 Exhibit 3 is a copy of the proposed
13 CAAPP permit for the Midwest Generation
14 plant-Powerton.

15 Exhibit 4 is a copy of proposed CAAPP
16 permit for the AmerenCILCO (Central Illinois Light
17 Company) Edwards power plant.

18 And Exhibit 5 is a copy of the
19 proposed CAAPP permit for the Central Illinois Light
20 Company Duck Creek power plant.

21 I'd also like to note there's several
22 officials from these organizations present to answer
23 any questions you have, and if either of you would
24 like to make any comments now, that would be fine.

1 Before you make any comments, please
2 state and spell your name for the record as you
3 approach the podium.

4 MR. WHITWORTH: Good evening. My name
5 is Steven Whitworth. I'm Supervising Environmental
6 Scientist for Air Quality and Operations Support in
7 the Environmental Safety and Health Department of
8 Ameren Services Company, a subsidiary of Ameren
9 Corporation. I am based at the Ameren corporate
10 offices in downtown St. Louis, Missouri.

11 I am responsible for air quality
12 programs within Ameren and provide support to the
13 operating companies to achieve compliance with air
14 pollution control requirements throughout the Ameren
15 system.

16 I and other members of the
17 Environmental Safety and Health Department staff
18 have worked with the Illinois EPA for the last ten
19 years to implement the requirements of the Clean Air
20 Act Title V operating permit program.

21 I would like to recognize the efforts
22 of the IEPA air staff and particularly the utility
23 permit section for their efforts to implement a
24 sound and reasonable permit program.

1 I look forward to the continued
2 cooperation with the IEPA to achieve issuance of the
3 Clean Air Act Permit Program operating permits for
4 the Ameren facilities.

5 I would like to briefly describe the
6 Ameren and its facilities in Illinois.

7 Ameren Corporation companies provide
8 energy services to approximately 1.7 million
9 electric and 500,000 natural gas customers over a
10 49,000 square mile area of Missouri and Illinois.

11 Ameren companies' net generating
12 capacity is more than 14,500 megawatts.

13 Based in St. Louis, Missouri, Ameren
14 Corporation is the parent company of recently
15 acquired AmerenCILCO based in Peoria, AmerenCIPS
16 based in Springfield, and AmerenUE which is based in
17 St. Louis.

18 The company is also parent to Ameren
19 Energy Generating Company, a non-regulated
20 generating company, as well as energy marketing and
21 fuels services companies.

22 AmerenCILCO facilities include the
23 Duck Creek and E.D. Edwards generating facilities
24 that are the subject of the hearing this evening.

1 Ameren currently operates 14 electric
2 generating facilities in Illinois that burn a
3 variety of fuels including coal, oil, and natural
4 gas. These include base load and intermediate
5 facilities as well as peaking facilities which all
6 provide electricity for Illinois homes and
7 businesses.

8 Ameren companies have significantly
9 reduced emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen
10 oxides and have been acknowledged as a leader in NOx
11 control resulting from accomplishments at our
12 coal-fired generating stations.

13 Beginning in 1991, AmerenUE began a
14 series of research projects and installed advanced
15 combustion control technologies on several
16 generating units.

17 Our continuing commitment and goal to
18 achieve the lowest possible NOx emissions on these
19 units has resulted in unprecedented success.

20 For the last several years, Ameren has
21 operated some of the lowest NOx emitting large
22 coal-fired generating units in the country including
23 six of the nation's 10 lowest NOx emitting units and
24 13 of the 20 lowest emitting units in the nation.

1 Our work with the Electric Power
2 Research Institute in applying new technologies on
3 one of our cyclone-fired boilers has resulted in
4 achieving the lowest NOx emitting cyclone coal-fired
5 unit in the nation without add-on emissions
6 controls. These efforts earned the company the
7 Governor's Pollution Prevention Award in Missouri
8 for 1998.

9 Ameren continues to participate in
10 research and development of additional new,
11 innovative, and cost-effective technologies to
12 reduce emissions of air pollutants.

13 Ameren has recently installed
14 additional pollution control technologies on some of
15 our largest electrical generating units in Illinois.
16 This includes selective catalytic reduction or SCR
17 units on Duck Creek Unit 1 and Edwards Unit 3. SCRs
18 are a costly but effective approach for control of
19 NOx emissions that uses ammonia and a catalyst to
20 break down nitrous oxides to elemental nitrogen and
21 oxygen. SCR is considered state of the art best
22 technology for controlling NOx emissions.

23 Ameren is committed to providing our
24 customers with clean, reliable energy while

1 preserving and protecting the environment.

2 While the Duck Creek and Edwards power
3 plants are relatively new to the Ameren family of
4 generating units, we look forward to working with
5 them to achieve further reductions of the emissions
6 in the future.

7 We urge the IEPA to issue the Clean
8 Air Act Permit Program or CAAPP operating permits to
9 these facilities so that they can continue to
10 provide reliable, low cost energy to this region.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to
12 personally present this statement.

13 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you,
14 Mr. Whitworth.

15 Would anyone else with the companies
16 like to speak?

17 MS. OLAVARRIA: Can we leave ours to
18 the end?

19 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: That's
20 fine.

21 Okay. Then we'll turn to the comments
22 from the general public.

23 First I have is Mr. Joseph Laszlo.
24 Again, please state and spell your name for the

1 record.

2 MR. LASZLO: Thank you.

3 That's Joseph Laszlo (L-a-s-z-l-o).

4 I'm the conservation chair for the Heart of Illinois
5 Sierra Club.

6 The Heart of Illinois Sierra Club
7 represents 800 members in 15 counties throughout
8 central Illinois.

9 Illinois' coal-fired power plants are
10 a huge source of air pollution including over 80
11 percent of the state's mercury pollution. This
12 pollution is responsible for the statewide advisory
13 against eating fish caught in Illinois. This
14 threatens our recreational fishing industry.

15 Also, coal plants emit large amounts
16 of smog and soot-forming pollutants. They are
17 responsible for more frequent and more severe asthma
18 attacks and even premature death.

19 All of the state's coal-fired power
20 plants are grandfathered under federal law; that is,
21 they have been exempt from putting on modern
22 pollution controls. The state has the authority to
23 de-grandfather these plants and require modern
24 controls.

1 The IEPA is more than five years late
2 in issuing Title V permits. We urge the state to
3 move more quickly.

4 I have one question for the panel and
5 one question for the represented utilities.

6 For this body I would like to ask,
7 will IEPA de-grandfather these plants, and I would
8 like to ask Ameren what control technologies have
9 they implemented to reduce mercury emissions.

10 Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you,
12 Mr. Laszlo.

13 Would you like to respond?

14 MR. ROMAINE: With respect to the
15 question of will Illinois EPA remove the grandfather
16 provisions, the simple answer is no.

17 The more complicated answer is that
18 the Illinois legislature has started a statewide
19 process that could lead to the removal of the
20 grandfather provision for power plants.

21 So the new rules that would be adopted
22 for power plants would not be adopted by the
23 Illinois EPA. Actually, emission control
24 requirements in Illinois, regulations of the type

1 that we're talking about for existing coal-fired
2 power plants are adopted by the Pollution Control
3 Board which is a separate state agency.

4 We are instructed by the legislature
5 to proceed with a study to evaluate further controls
6 on coal-fired power plants and then to make a
7 proposal to the Pollution Control Board to require
8 those further controls.

9 So there's a separation of power in
10 that regard whereas we would make a proposal, and
11 the Pollution Control Board would be the authority
12 that deliberates on that proposal and ultimately
13 decides what requirements should be imposed.

14 Then it would come back to us, and
15 through the permit programs and other requirements,
16 we'd actually assure that power plants are
17 fulfilling their obligations.

18 In addition, Governor Blagojevich has
19 instructed the Illinois EPA to proceed as
20 expeditiously as possible on this study so that the
21 report is completed quickly and that we can proceed
22 to adopt regulations.

23 At the same time, certainly there's a
24 similar process going on at the federal level with

1 the Clear Skies proposed. I'm not sure what would
2 occur if the Clear Skies proposal is adopted in a
3 stringent form, whether in fact that would eliminate
4 the need for Illinois to proceed on its own or would
5 allow the Illinois EPA to make a proposal that only
6 addressed certain aspects of further control rather
7 than addressing overlapping or redundantly
8 addressing some of the issues that have been
9 adequately addressed by the Clear Skies program.

10 That's a long answer, but in summary,
11 we don't have the authority on our own to do what
12 you're asking.

13 However, there are steps moving
14 forward at the state level and at the national level
15 that are geared to eliminate the grandfather
16 provisions for existing coal-fired power plants.

17 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Okay.
18 Would anyone from Ameren like to answer that
19 question?

20 MR. WHITWORTH: I'll just provide a
21 brief response to Mr. Laszlo's question.

22 While we haven't installed particular
23 targeted emission control equipment for mercury,
24 some existing pollution control equipment such as

1 precipitators do remove certain species of mercury.

2 I've also been active in tracking the
3 federal legislation as well as supporting the Clear
4 Skies initiative and been involved in some research
5 mainly with EPRI and Washington University to
6 explore different technologies such as advanced
7 sorbents and other technologies for mercury
8 removal.

9 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank
10 you, Mr. Whitworth.

11 The next speaker is Joyce Blumenshine.

12 MS. BLUMENSHINE: Thank you.

13 My name is Joyce Blumenshine
14 (B-l-u-m-e-n-s-h-i-n-e). I am a member of Heart of
15 Illinois Sierra Club, and I've lived in Peoria 20
16 years plus.

17 I want to thank the Illinois EPA for
18 the opportunity to talk to you tonight, and I
19 appreciate the information and all your efforts to
20 maintain and improve our air quality and other
21 environmental quality of life issues.

22 Living in the Peoria area, in the
23 beautiful river valley that we have the opportunity
24 to be in, has serious and significant concerns that

1 might be unique to some parts of this state with
2 three older coal-fired power plants.

3 Because of temperature, because of air
4 conditions, ground conditions and the river, we
5 often can have a haze or cloud over this area, and
6 that is a serious concern to many of us for the
7 health issues.

8 I don't know how many of you have
9 friends with asthma. I work with someone who does,
10 and I've heard her panic calls at times when she's
11 coming to work and had to pull off the road because
12 air conditions have given her serious problems.

13 We urge that the highest, most
14 stringent requirements be applied to these plants.
15 We urge that in future situations, I hope the
16 industry will apply the highest and best available
17 technology to improve the quality of air here in
18 Peoria. Certainly improvements have been made but
19 there's a long way to go.

20 We also question and referred several
21 times to the Clear Skies initiative. I just have to
22 say some of us have some issues with that, and in
23 some ways, it's a misnomer, so we are on the alert
24 to watch for the future health and well-being of our

1 area, and we urge that the strongest provisions be
2 applied.

3 We value our right to know about the
4 pollutants that are constantly being put into our
5 living space and also the pollutants that are
6 constantly going into our river and drinking water
7 that we get from the Illinois River.

8 Thank you very much.

9 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you,
10 Ms. Blumenshine.

11 Are there any other questions or
12 comments by members of the public?

13 Okay. Would you like to make a
14 statement?

15 MS. OLAVARRIA: Hi. My name is Susan
16 Olavarria, and I'm a public affairs manager with
17 Midwest Generation.

18 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Could you
19 spell your last name?

20 MS. OLAVARRIA: My last name is
21 spelled (O-l-a-v-a-r-r-i-a).

22 First and foremost, I'd like to thank
23 you for holding the hearing and giving us an
24 opportunity to speak, and I'd like to say that the

1 very public Title V process itself demonstrates how
2 strictly our power plants are regulated. There are
3 about 900 different regulatory requirements in a
4 typical Midwest Generation Title V permit.

5 The public has legitimate concerns
6 about pollution, and the Title V process should
7 assure them that regulators and citizens are able to
8 closely monitor operations.

9 Midwest Generation operates our plants
10 in compliance with all regulatory requirements.
11 Those regulations have gotten tougher over the past
12 30 years. They got tougher this year. They get
13 even stronger next year, and the federal EPA is
14 working toward adopting the first-ever regulations
15 on mercury emissions from power plants within the
16 next few years.

17 The fact is our plants are cleaner and
18 safer than at any time in their history, and they
19 will continue to get cleaner.

20 Since acquiring seven power plants
21 here in Illinois in 1999, we have invested well over
22 200 million dollars to reduce air emissions.

23 At our Powerton station in Pekin, we
24 have reduced emissions of nitrogen oxides which

1 contribute to smog and sulfur dioxide which
2 contributes to acid rain by over 50 percent.

3 The bottom line is that Midwest
4 Generation's improvements and the regulation of our
5 plants help meet clean air goals while making sure
6 we have a reliable and affordable supply of
7 electricity.

8 Finally, I want to make clear that we
9 at Midwest Generation understand that power plants
10 have an impact on the environment. Our record
11 demonstrates that we are committed to environmental
12 responsibility.

13 We respect the concerns that people
14 have about asthma and other respiratory illnesses.
15 It's a serious issue that deserves serious
16 attention.

17 However, the claims we sometimes hear
18 that increases in asthma can be traced in specific
19 numbers to power plants just don't add up.

20 During the very period that asthma has
21 been on the rise, pollution from our plants has been
22 falling dramatically.

23 There simply are many factors that
24 contribute to asthma including indoor air pollution

1 from sources such as pollen, dust, and tobacco
2 smoke. Even stress is thought to be a factor.

3 It is also well-known that vehicle
4 emissions, especially from diesel trucks and busses,
5 are the biggest source of air pollution. In fact,
6 statewide mobile sources account for about half of
7 the emissions of nitrogen oxides.

8 Every source of pollution must cut
9 back. We have done that. We will continue to do
10 that, and the Title V permits give the EPA and
11 citizens more tools to monitor our operations and
12 protect the public. We welcome that and appreciate
13 the opportunity to speak to you tonight.

14 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you,
15 Ms. Olavarrai.

16 Are there any other questions or
17 comments from anyone?

18 All right then. Once again, on behalf
19 of Renee Cipriano, the Illinois Environmental
20 Protection Agency, and myself, Charles Matoesian, I
21 thank you all for coming and good night.

22 I adjourn this hearing.

23 (Ending time: 7:40 p.m.)

24

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
2 COUNTY OF SANGAMON)

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CERTIFICATE

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I, Laurel A. Patkes, Certified Shorthand

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Reporter in and for said County and State, do hereby

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certify that I reported in shorthand the foregoing

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proceedings and that the foregoing is a true and

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correct transcript of my shorthand notes so taken as

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aforesaid.

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Dated this 22nd day of August 2003.

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Certified Shorthand Reporter

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