



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

**JUN 18 2012**

Jeffrey Hanson, P.E.  
Manager, Environmental Services - Generation  
Alliant Energy  
4902 North Biltmore Lane  
Madison, Wisconsin 53718-2148

Re: June 6, 2012 Proposal to Request a Clean Air Act Operating Permit Application  
for Columbia Generating Station

Dear Mr. Hanson:

On June 6, 2012, the United States Environmental Protection Agency sent to you a Notice proposing to request that Alliant Energy (Alliant) submit to EPA an application for a federal operating permit under Title V of the Clean Air Act and implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 70 and 71. EPA explained in the Notice that, because the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) had not yet responded to an October 8, 2009 Order, EPA was proposing to take action regarding the operating permit for Alliant's Columbia Generating facility. The Notice provided Alliant 30 days to comment on EPA's proposed action, and 10 days to request a hearing. The Notice further stated that any hearing must be held during the 30-day comment period.

Additionally, on December 14, 2009, the EPA issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) in which EPA alleged, among other things, certain violations of the Clean Air Act at Alliant's Columbia Generating facility. The allegations in the NOV related to issues that were the subject of the October 8, 2009 Order.

We understand that Alliant believes it has reached agreement with EPA regarding the allegations contained in the NOV, and is working to consummate that agreement. We understand further that the settlement would result in a revised operating permit from WDNR that would address the issues raised in the Order. We further understand that Alliant has requested that it be able to participate in settlement discussions without having to prepare comments on the June 6, 2012 Notice and possibly prepare for a hearing. In light of the above, EPA is willing to extend the deadlines contained in the June 6, 2012 letter by 60 days. Thus, Alliant will have 90 days from the date of its receipt of the June 6, 2012 letter to submit comments on EPA's proposal and 70 days from its receipt to request a hearing. If requested, the hearing would be held before the end of the 90-day comment period.

If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Susan Kraj of my staff at 312-353-2654.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George T. Czerniak". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

George T. Czerniak  
Acting Director  
Air and Radiation Division