



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

AUG 15 2012

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Robert R. Clark
Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
One Indiana Square, Suite 3500
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2023

Re: August 7, 2012 Request to Extend Deadlines in EPA's June 6, 2012 Proposal to Request a Clean Air Act Operating Permit Application for Columbia Generating Station

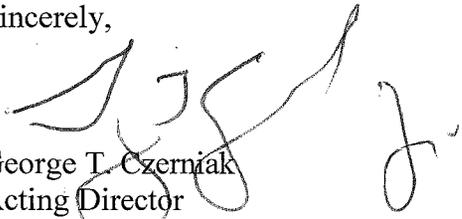
Dear Mr. Clark:

On June 18, 2012, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sent a letter to Jeffrey Hanson of Alliant Energy (Alliant) granting a request for an extension of time to submit comments and request a hearing on EPA's June 6, 2012 proposal that Alliant submit to EPA an application for a federal operating permit for Alliant's Columbia Generating Station under Title V of the Clean Air Act. EPA explained in the June 6 and June 18, 2012 letters that, because the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) had not yet responded to an October 8, 2009 Order regarding the operating permit for the Columbia Generating Station, EPA was proposing to take action on the permit. EPA also noted in the letters that EPA had alleged in a December 14, 2009 Notice of Violation (NOV) that violations had occurred at the Columbia Generating Station that were related to issues that were the subject of the October 8, 2009 Order, and that negotiations to resolve the allegations in the NOV were nearing completion. We understand that the parties believe that settlement of the allegations in the NOV would result in a revised operating permit issued by WDNR that would resolve the issues raised in the October 8, 2009 Order. In granting the extension, EPA explained our understanding "that Alliant believes it has reached agreement with EPA regarding the allegations contained in the NOV, and is working to consummate that agreement."

The EPA has received your email to Leslie Herje, Assistant U.S. Attorney, requesting a second extension of the deadlines in the June 6, 2012 letter. You suggested that an extension of the deadlines or a withdrawal of the June 6 letter would allow Alliant to be able to continue to participate in settlement discussions without having to prepare comments on the June 6, 2012 letter, and possibly prepare for a hearing on the federal operating permit. You indicated during an August 13, 2012 telephone conversation with Jane Woolums of EPA that you believe the parties have made significant progress in consummating the agreement to settle the allegations in the NOV. In light of the above, EPA is willing to extend the deadline for requesting a hearing on the June 6, 2012 proposal to November 15, 2012, and the deadline for submitting comments on the proposed action to December 15, 2012.

If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Jane Woolums of the Office of Regional Counsel at 312-886-6720.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Czerniak', written over the typed name.

George T. Czerniak
Acting Director
Air and Radiation Division