

March 4, 2016

Dear Governor Rauner,

I am writing you about a concerning issue we have in Vermilion County. In March of 2011 Dynegy Energy closed their coal fired power plant in Newtown, IL and ceased operations in the area. When they shut down operations, they left three unattended coal ash ponds in the flood plain in close proximity to a bend of the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River. This issue is of great concern to the local officials here in Vermilion County both because of the Environmental and Economic risks that these coal ash ponds pose to the area. The concern is based on potential leeching that is occurring out of the ponds and into ground water as well as the possibility of a catastrophic failure of the river bank next to the ponds that would lead to a massive spill into a nation scenic waterway.

Vermilion County has struggled over the previous 30 years as our industrial base has disappeared and we have lost our economic identity. The County board recently released its strategic plan for the next 10 years, which focuses on a major restructuring of our economic development efforts in utilizing our natural resources and promoting the County as a premier tourist destination in the Midwest. Any major environmental event caused by Dynegy's negligence would be a great risk to this effort. We hope that Dynegy can be enticed to act responsibly and take care of the situation. Thank you very much for any assistance you may be able to provide in this effort.

Sincerely,

Michael T. marron

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