

Douglas, Tina (PUC)

Subject: FW: Request for public hearings, Docket No. EL05-022

----- Original Message -----

From: Erin Jordahl-Redlin <ejredlin@cleanwater.org>
To: Van Gerpen, Patty; Cremer, Karen
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Sent: Mon Jun 12 10:22:34 2006
Subject: Request for public hearings, Docket No. EL05-022

(hard copy of this letter to follow)

June 12, 2006

Patricia Van Gerpen

Executive Director

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

Capitol Building, First Floor

500 East Capitol Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RE: Opportunities for public comments on Big Stone II coal plant and transmission permit application, Docket No. EL05-022

Ms. Van Gerpen:

On behalf of Clean Water Action's 9,063 members in South Dakota, I request that the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission hold additional public comment hearings in several locations throughout the state before a final decision is made on the Big Stone II coal plant and transmission application.

One public hearing, held in September of 2005 in Milbank, was insufficient to adequately address the concerns and questions of residents throughout the state. Additional meetings would be especially helpful since very little information about the proposal's environmental, health, and economic impacts was known at the time of last year's meeting.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) has brought to light more detailed information about the projected pollution from the proposal. This information should be made part of the public record that the Commissioners use to make the permit decision.

Additional meetings would also allow residents from throughout the state to comment on the proposal, not just those people who live near the plant site. A new source of pollution affects all South Dakotans, not just those who live in Milbank.

Please respond to this request for additional meetings. If such meetings are held, the minutes and public comments from them should be considered by the Commissioners as part of the public record on the Big Stone II permit application.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Marie Zellar

Midwest Regional Director, Clean Water Action

Erin Jordahl-Redlin

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