

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2022

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Mail Code 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Sioux Energy Center

Dear Administrator Regan:

We strongly urge the EPA reconsider its recent rejection of Ameren Missouri's (Ameren) Sioux Energy Center coal combustion residuals (CCR) unit extension request. In November 2020, Ameren filed an extension request seeking permission from the EPA to continue use of the gypsum pond until October 2023. That request had been pending with the EPA since that time until its January 2022 rejection.

The current Sioux Energy Center utility pond at issue was constructed above the standards required by the State of Missouri for managing environmental risk and is already scheduled to be replaced within the next 12 to 18 months to meet the new standard mandated by EPA. Failure to grant Ameren's request to continue operations could prompt a temporary closure of the Sioux plant, increasing customer energy costs by an estimated \$10 million per month. This potential closure would occur during a time when access to affordable and reliable energy is vital to the St. Louis metropolitan region, inflating an essential cost in every household as the purchasing power of each paycheck continues to erode. As inflation surges to a 40-year high of 7.5 percent, it is imperative that the EPA works with Ameren toward a more viable solution that does not create additional cost burdens on our constituents.

Ameren constructed the current facility in a manner which exceeded the regulations at the time of construction and advanced plans for a new facility as the rule changed. Given the safety of the current facility, and diligent work on construction of the new facility, we strongly encourage EPA to allow continued operation of the Sioux Energy Center and avoid placing an unnecessary financial burden on Missourians.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Roy Blum
United States Senate



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress