

Illinois Power Generating Company  
1500 Eastport Plaza Drive  
Collinsville, IL 62234

November 30, 2024

Re: Annual Progress Report (§ 257.103(f)(2)(x)) for the Newton Power Plant Primary Ash Pond

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 257.103(f)(2)(x), Illinois Power Generating Company has prepared this “annual progress report documenting the continued lack of alternative capacity and the progress towards the closure of the CCR surface impoundment.”

#### Continued Lack of Alternative Capacity

As set forth in the retirement demonstration dated November 25, 2020 for the Newton Power Plant Primary Ash Pond, no alternative capacity existed for the CCR and non-CCR waste streams that are being disposed in the Newton Primary Ash Pond. As EPA explained in the preamble to the proposed Part A revisions, “it would be illogical to require [] facilities [ceasing power generation] to [] construct new capacity to manage CCR and non-CCR wastestreams.” 84 Fed. Reg. 65,941, 65,956 (Dec. 2, 2019). EPA again reiterated in the preamble to the final revisions that “[i]n contrast to the provision under § 257.103(f)(1), the owner or operator does not need to develop alternative capacity because of the impending closure of the coal fired boiler.” 85 Fed. Reg. 53,516, 53,547 (Aug. 28, 2020). Circumstances have not changed at the Newton Power Plant, and there are no existing options to dispose of CCR and non-CCR other than in the Newton Primary Ash Pond. Accordingly, there is a continued lack of alternative capacity at the Newton Power Plant.

#### Progress Towards Closure

As set forth in the retirement demonstration dated November 25, 2020 for the Newton Power Plant, construction of closure was expected to begin on July 17, 2024 with closure complete by October 17, 2028 as required by 40 C.F.R. 257.103(f)(2)(iv)(B). Although there have been delays in commencing construction activities due to permitting delays, circumstances have not changed with respect to the expected completion of closure activities by October 2028 at the Newton Power Plant. The company is aware of and continues to consider the reliability concerns identified by the North American Reliability Electric Corporation and some Independent System Operators. To date, progress towards closure includes bidding and awarding an engineer service firm for the CCR impoundment closure design in order for closure to be completed by the 2028 deadline. Work has begun to design final closure.

On July 28, 2022, the Newton Power Plant submitted a closure plan to Illinois EPA as part of its construction permit application pursuant to 35 I.A.C § 845.220. On August 16, 2022, a notice was posted on the company’s public CCR website indicating that the closure plan under 40 C.F.R. § 257.102 was updated to incorporate the closure plan previously submitted to Illinois EPA. The construction permit application remains pending before IEPA.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Vodopivec

Senior Vice President – Environmental, Health & Safety