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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly has made the development of affordable and secure energy from Illinois coal a high priority, as evidenced by the Illinois Resource Development and Energy Security Act and numerous other legislative actions; and

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WHEREAS, New coal-fueled electric power plants and other power plants can serve as a buffer for Illinois consumers against the increasingly high cost of natural gas and imported petroleum; and

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WHEREAS, Delays in constructing new plants elevate the future cost of electric power, which adversely affects purchasers, such as not-for-profit electric cooperatives and their consumers; and

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WHEREAS, New technologies, including circulating fluidized bed boiler systems, can significantly control harmful emissions from power plants built under current State and federal air quality regulations; and

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WHEREAS, Developers have made substantial investments of private funds to obtain land, water resources, and the necessary permits to construct new coal-fired energy products; and

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WHEREAS, It is understandable that citizens residing in the area surrounding a coal-fueled electric power plant may have reasonable concerns over its construction that would best be addressed in a thorough and expeditious manner pursuant to the applicable law; and

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WHEREAS, Case No. 05-cv-4095 was filed on May 20, 2005, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of

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1 Illinois, to challenge the validity of an air quality  
2 preconstruction permit that was issued in Franklin County by  
3 the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and

4 WHEREAS, The viability of this proposed facility may be  
5 affected if the proceedings in the United States District Court  
6 are unduly prolonged; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Illinois Senate  
9 respectfully urges the honorable United States District Court  
10 for the Southern District of Illinois to expedite a hearing on  
11 the merits of the complaint in the matter of Case No.  
12 05-cv-4095; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 presented to the Honorable G. Patrick Murphy, Chief Judge of  
15 the United States District Court for the Southern District of  
16 Illinois.