

SPRINGFIELD RESIDENTS DELIVER PETITIONS TO CITY COUNCIL CALLING FOR PUBLIC PROCESS TO PLAN CWLP'S FUTURE

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SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - Tonight, Springfield citizens delivered petitions to the Springfield City Council to demand a more open, transparent public process for City Water Light & Power (CWLP) as their public utility. Citizens have repeatedly called for City Council action after years of financial turmoil and rate increases from CWLP, including a recently proposed electric rate restructuring that would raise the base charge for everyone's electric bills in Springfield regardless of their electricity use.

Moody's Investor Services recently downgraded CWLP's bond outlook from "stable" to "negative" after the city council decided in May to transfer nearly \$3 million from the city's corporate fund to CWLP without public input.

"Springfield citizens are proud to be served by a public utility, but right now, Springfield's public utility isn't serving the public well," said **John Williams, Springfield resident**. "It's time for CWLP to act like a true public utility and include Springfield citizens as it maps out the future of providing Springfield's power needs."

Much of the CWLP's financial woes can be tied to its continued operation of aging units at its Dallman coal-fired power plant. A 2015 study by [Synapse Energy & Economics](#) showed that operating Dallman Units 1 & 2 lost the city at least \$41 million dollars between 2008-2013 alone. Synapse also found that the running the two units would lose at least \$40 million over the next 20 years. Because these units are older, they are more expensive to run.

Citizens decided to speak out after a series of recent major financial decisions made by the Springfield City Council without public input. For example, in July the City Council voted to move forward with the Hunter Lake project, with a proposed cost to residents of \$110 million dollars and a water rate increase of

50 percent. The City Council ignored requests from residents to have a public process or a referendum vote on the issue.

“The City Council has moved forward with massive financial decisions without consulting ratepayers and community owners of CWLP,” said **Scott Gauvin, Vice Chair of the Sierra Club’s Sangamon Valley Group**. “A citizen oversight committee at CWLP would allow community members to have a voice in the long term future of CWLP and vision for the city including looking at alternative solutions to the problems we face.”

In the petitions, citizens envisioned a public process with CWLP that would include oversight committees and information sessions with:

- Current financial information from CWLP
- Anticipated environmental standards that CWLP should be prepared to meet
- Opportunities for citizens to ask questions, receive answers and offer input to both the City Council and CWLP would give citizens a voice in the process.

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