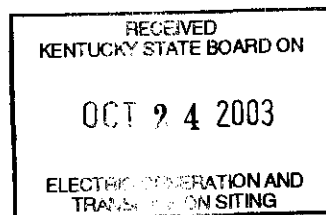


Century ALUMINUM

**Hawesville
Operations**



Mr. Thomas M. Dorman, Executive Director
Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting
211 Sower Boulevard
P.O. Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40602-0615

Re: Application of Thoroughbred Generating Company, LLC, Case No. 2002-00150

Dear Mr Dorman:

I am writing you on behalf of Century Aluminum Company. Our company owns and operates the large primary aluminum reduction plant at Hawesville, KY. We are the largest employer in Hancock County. Our 775 employees enjoy wages and medical and pension benefits that make them among the best-paid industrial workers in Kentucky. The plant is modern and efficient and produces 244,000 metric tons of primary aluminum a year. Electric power accounts for about one-third of the total cost to make primary aluminum. This year, our plant will spend about \$100 million for electric power.

Primary aluminum is a commodity that trades at prices set daily in world markets. We compete against producers throughout the world – many with substantially lower power costs. Therefore, our economic survivability depends on having adequate supplies of electric energy at globally competitive rates.

For this reason, Century Aluminum supports all efforts to increase power supplies and transmission capabilities in Kentucky. At the same time, we are deeply concerned with so-called “unintended consequences” that could arise from new projects aimed at increasing energy supplies in our state.

With respect to the proposed Thoroughbred project, we recommend that the Siting Board carefully collect and evaluate all the required data to insure that:

- Existing rate payers in Kentucky are not adversely affected by the project;
- Consumers will not be required to pay for transmission and interconnection facilities required by the construction and operation of Thoroughbred;
- Expansion of generating capacity at existing power plants is not limited by the project; and
- Economic development in Western Kentucky is not diminished by building Thoroughbred.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these recommendations. We are available to offer any additional information that may help you in your important deliberations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Jack Gates".

E. Jack Gates
Executive Vice President - Operations