

Utilities Face Scrutiny for Coal Reliance

Barbara Vergetis Lundin | May 17, 2012

Duke Energy, Ameren and FirstEnergy have their feet to the fire. Shareholders want the utilities to reduce their reliance on coal, which is becoming more expensive and subject to stricter environmental regulations.

Shareholders want to see the utilities disclose their plans to reduce cost exposure and risks associated with coal and report back on their progress in implementing the plans.

"The era of cheap coal is over, and investors are urging coal-fired utilities to plan for a clean energy future," said Corinne Bendersky, Energy Program Manager for **As You Sow**, the shareholder advocacy group filing the proposals. "Investors need greater transparency on how companies will manage the risks facing their remaining coal plants, and how they plan to navigate the transition to new energy sources."