

Janet F. Gerske
850 West Oakdale Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60657
773-327-3498

June 2, 2008

RECEIVED
CLERK'S OFFICE
JUN 04 2008
STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

Illinois Pollution Control Board
c/o John Therriault, Assistant Clerk
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

RE: Rule Making R08-009

DC40

To The Illinois Pollution Control Board:

This letter is written in support of stronger water quality standards proposed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for the Chicago Area Waterways and Lower Des Plaines River.

As I understand it, the new standards would require the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) to (1) disinfect treated sewage that flows into our waterways from its North Side, Calumet, and Stickney wastewater treatment plants, in order to kill or greatly reduce pathogens such as giardia and salmonella that can infect people and wildlife, and (2) better regulate temperature and increase the amount of oxygen in the water to support fish, mussels and other aquatic species.

It seems only sensible to disinfect the sewage effluent, particularly assuming that it is accomplished in a way that does not introduce harmful chemicals into the water. It is imperative that we do as much as possible to maintain healthy water systems, since we are made of water and all life depends upon it.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Janet F. Gerske