

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AND) **R08-9**
EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS FOR THE) **(Rulemaking - Water)**
CHICAGO AREA WATERWAY SYSTEM)
AND THE LOWER DES PLAINES)
RIVER: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO)
35 Ill. Adm. Code Parts 301, 302, 303 and)
304)

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO'S PRE-FILED QUESTIONS TO GERALD ADELMANN

1. Page 1, Paragraph 2, Sentence 2: You state that communities have spent billions of dollars on projects. Can you provide a list of these projects, associated costs, community financing the project, and an approximate time frame when the projects were completed?
2. Page 1, third paragraph, last sentence: You state that adopting more stringent water quality standards will shape smart growth throughout the greater Chicagoland area for years to come.
 - A. What do you mean by smart growth?
 - B. How do you envision water quality standards in the CAWS as being a driver for growth in the greater Chicagoland area?
 - C. If implementation of the proposed effluent bacterial standards does not lead to significant improvement in water quality in the CAWS especially during, and for lingering periods following, wet weather and does not significantly reduce health risks, how will that affect smart growth?
3. Page 2, first paragraph: You state that the regional vision calls for safe and adequate paddling access to 10 rivers in northeastern Illinois and identifies 480 miles of water trails and 174 access points for paddling.
 - A. Please identify the 10 rivers.
 - B. Which of these rivers are included in this rulemaking and which are not?
 - C. Do you know how many of the 480 miles of water trails and 174 access points for paddling that the plan identifies are located on the CAWS, on the LDPR, and on other of the 10 rivers in northeastern Illinois?
4. Page 2, second paragraph: You state that Openlands is committed to help water trail providers make paddling safe for everyone and that you have advocated since 2000 for

adequate limits for bacterial contamination to support all current and anticipated human usage of the Chicago River System.

- A. Can you define the term water trail provider?
 - B. In describing your efforts to help ensure safety, you do not indicate that you advise paddlers of the risks and danger of recreating alongside commercial barges and tour boats, and other motorized watercraft traffic. Does your concern for paddler safety extend to reducing the potential risk of drowning resulting from capsizing or collision with these watercraft?
 - C. Please define the Chicago River System and how it compares to the system of waterways defined as the CAWS.
 - D. Please list what you consider to be all current and anticipated human usage of the Chicago River System.
 - E. Would you agree that what you are actually advocating for is for adequately low levels of microbial pathogens in CAWS waterways to support all current and anticipated human usage?
 - F. How should these adequately low levels of microbial pathogens be determined? Will you be satisfied if these levels are unattainable during wet weather?
5. Page 2, third paragraph: You state that improving water quality and aquatic habitat along the CAWS and LDPR will benefit ecology, tourism and recreation throughout the area. You also state that the waterways are hydrologically connected to higher quality streams that you have worked for decades to preserve and restore.
- A. Have you assessed the feasibility and cost of effecting habitat improvements to the CAWS and LDPR that will provide significant ecological benefits?
 - B. What is the basis for your statement that tourism and recreation will benefit from improved water quality? To what extent do you expect them to improve as a result of the proposed rulemaking?
 - C. Can you list the specific high quality streams that are hydrologically connected to the CAWS and LDPR that you have been working for decades to preserve and restore? Can you describe their hydrological connection to the CAWS and LDPR making note of direction of flow, and presence of dams, locks, and electric field barriers?
 - D. What impact have you determined the CAWS and the LDPR currently have on each of the streams you just identified? How do you expect this influence to change if IEPA's proposed rulemaking is adopted?

- E. Is the Illinois and Michigan Canal hydrologically connected to the CAWS or LDPR? Do you consider it be of higher quality than the CAWS and LDPR? If so, on what basis?
6. On page 3, first paragraph of your testimony, you indicate that by “looking forward to what the waterways are now capable of attaining, we can improve opportunities for people to experience the natural beauty, diversity and tranquility of the region.”
- A. Do you disagree with the conclusion in the UAA that the recreational uses of the waterways do not include primary contact recreation?
- B. Do you agree with the conclusion in the UAA that the waterways will not be safe for incidental contact recreation during and following wet-weather discharges?
7. Page 3, Conclusions: You state that people are now responding in unprecedented numbers to the improvements in water quality in the CAWS and that improved aquatic life use designations are fundamental in creating habitat conditions for greater biodiversity.
- A. Please clarify what you mean by unprecedented numbers. Do you mean growing numbers of people?
- B. How do you know that growing numbers of people are using the CAWS?
- C. If in fact the number of CAWS users is growing, how do you know that this is in response to the water quality improvements? Which specific water quality improvements are you alluding to?
- D. Is this statement your personal opinion or do you have any survey data showing the number of people that are currently using the CAWS for recreational activities?
- E. Please explain how the proposed aquatic life use designations are an improvement over the current aquatic life use designations for the CAWS.
- F. Please explain how you envision that the proposed aquatic life use designations will create habitat conditions that will result in greater biodiversity. Are you envisioning that physical habitat will improve as a result of this rulemaking?
8. What safety protocols does your organization employ when inviting the public to use the CAWS? Do you avoid certain areas due to barge and motorized boat traffic, absence of safe entry and exit locations, and/or other issues incompatible with recreational uses? Do you avoid certain times, such as during and following wet weather events?
9. Even if the wastewater treatment plant effluent was disinfected, would you recommend that people, particularly children, should avoid exposure to the CAWS due to pathogen contributions from stormwater runoff and combined sewer overflows?

10. In your survey of members and others, did you ask about the cost people would be willing to assume to disinfect effluent from the treatment plants?

Dated: August 25, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

**METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION
DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO**

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