



Calumet Ecological Park Association

Robert Kelliher, President
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CLERK'S OFFICE

SEP 16 2008

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

R08-9, PC #151

September 9, 2008

John Therriault, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Mr. Therriault:

The Calumet Ecological Park Association (CEPA) supports stronger water quality standards for the Chicago Area Waterways, including the Calumet waterways. For the first time in thirty years, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has proposed stronger water quality standards, and the Illinois Pollution Control Board is currently reviewing the IEPA proposed rules.

The new standards would require the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to disinfect billions of gallons per day of treated sewage that flows into our waterways from its Calumet, North Side and Stickney wastewater treatment plants. This would kill or greatly reduce pathogens, such as Giardia and Salmonella that can infect people and wildlife. The new standards would better regulate temperature and increase the amount of oxygen in the water to support fish, mussels and other aquatic species.

These new standards will greatly improve our waterways and be very beneficial for people and wildlife. CEPA was the lead organization in efforts that resulted in the 1998 a National Park Service feasibility study. The feasibility study map, inside the CEPA brochure, shows all the important natural resources in the Calumet, including wetlands, prairies, lakes and rivers. People use the Calumet waterways everyday to fish, paddle, row, and ride power boats. A CEPA brochure is enclosed.

Please approve stronger water standards for the Chicago Area Waterways. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Kelliher
Robert Kelliher
President *jal*