

PC#230

RECEIVED
CLERK'S OFFICE

JUL 02 2009

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board,

A couple of weeks ago my class and I went down to take some tests on the Chicago river. We take some tests on it and I have to say the results were the same as the last time we went there...not very pretty. We are all very worried about the future of the Chicago River and how it will affect our future. So I have come up with some Ideas on how to help the river with its "problem"

1. People really need to enforce the no littering law:

If you go to a park these days there are trash cans all over, but there is also garbage all over the place. We need people in the park monitoring these people who do this so that when they just through their trash on the ground, there will be people there to confront them and tell what would be the right thing to do next time and they would also be the clean up people for that park.

2. We could have a group to clean up around the city:

Once a month the city could have a group of 50 or 60 people to go around the city to different parks and clean up all of the pollution around there so that none of that runs into the sewers and ends up in the river.

3. Take action:

Take responsibility into your own hands to help keep this earth green. Recycle. Reuse. And Rethink what you are doing with your trash before you through it out. Can it be recycled or reused for anything else? That's your call.

Those are just some thoughts, but with a little effort it can and will make all the difference.

Sincerely,

Allison Thoms

PC#231

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

Dear: Illinois Pollution Control Board.

Hi my name is Ali Hodzic and I go to Thomas J. waters elementary school. I will tell you about the river. The first time we tested the river and it was in winter. The results were horrible. I remember the last time my class and I went to test to out again to see how the river is doing. When we took the tests again it was worse because so many things went in the river that killed fishes. I think how we can fix it is people should recycle and not throw paper and food in the river. I think we should test some of the stuff to see what should be in the river and what should not. After the river is better, we could swim in it.

Sincerely,

Ali Hodzic

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board,

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

PC# 232

I am a student at Thomas J. Waters elementary school.

My name is Austin Bunge and I have some very bad news.

My class was testing the Chicago River's water and we got

horrible results. The Chicago River is much polluted from all

of the sewage and trash just dumped into the river. When

the sewage gets into the river there is a low oxygen level

and it kills all of the fish. It is very sad that the fish have to

die from our pollution. Thank you for making the Water

Treatment Plant, it helped out a lot. Sadly, we still need a lot

more help to clean it up. We all need your help to clean up

the Chicago River. Please help clean the Chicago River for

the kids at Thomas J. Waters elementary school!

Sincerely,

Austin Bunge

PCH 233

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

Dear Illinois State Pollution Control Board,

Hi, my name is Tarik Hodzic and I go to Thomas J Waters Elementary School. I am writing this letter to inform you about the pollution that is going on in the depths of the Chicago River. I would advise you to prevent this problem from going any further because it is not only dangerous for us but the creatures in the river are also in jeopardy.

Thankfully, just like every problem there is a solution. All it takes is help from the people. I got a chance to visit the Chicago River and to tell you the truth it was DISGUSTING. There was soap in the river, sewage from your toilets, and dead fish. This is happening because the people do not care much about the environment as much as they should. To sum it all up, in my opinion the river was atrocious. I also got a chance to visit the Wilmette locks near Evanston. It was an amazing experience to get a chance to really look at how our water really works. The only problem was that the river was frozen so I could not really see how clear the water is. The river is supposed to be a place where you can

relax and watch the flow of the water. Unfortunately, thanks to the pollution in the water the river is not a place to relax but a place to figure out ways to fix this problem. I am hoping that you have a solution to this problem. Thank you for your time and I hope that the river becomes a better place.

Sincerely,

Tarik Hodzic.

PC#234

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JUL 02 2009

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

Dear Illinois State Pollution Control Board,

I am sad to say that the results of the tests in which we took of the water in the Chicago River as a field trip for our school came back with poor results. Here are the results that came back:

Dissolved Oxygen: Four parts per million=39%=D

Biochemical Oxygen Demand: One to two parts per million=B

Coliform Bacteria: Positive=1=D

Acidity Alkalinity: 8PH=3=14 Degrees Celsius=A

Nitrates: 0PPM=2=C

Phosphates: Two parts per million=3=B

Turbidity: Forty JTUs=3=B

By our ranking system, the final grade for the cleanliness of the Chicago River is a C.

As you see, this is not a good grade for our community. What do you suppose the community could do to prevent this? If you don't have any suggestions, you're in luck. Why? Because I have created a solutions of my own.

The solution in which I speak of is both simple and effective: First, put up a sign in which states do not pollute in river. Second, set up a video surveillance camera to monitor the perimeter. Third, if someone disobeys the rule, they will be caught on the camera. Then, because you have proof of the crime, you sentence them to community service for their wrong doing. Now all the polluters of the Chicago River will pay!

So what do you think? Awesome, right? That's my idea. If you have any ideas for me, write me back.

Sincerely,
Jordan Rivera

PC#235
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Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board,
STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

We need to improve the water quality because our water source is dirty. How do we know? On our first fieldtrip to the Chicago lake, we studied how polluted the water was. According to our study, the grade was c-, and that's not good news. The study showed that there wasn't much dissolved oxygen and that's why c- is not good. In this situation what happens is that a lot of our sewage gets inside of our lake, and this would cause a lot of people to get sick or even die. This is especially harmful for babies, young children and anyone who drinks 2 percent milk, because the milk is mixed with water.

The first problem we have to take care of is littering, people keep on discarding their garbage everywhere instead of the appropriate places. The city should put a sign on every street corner of every block, stating that "Any discarding garbage not put in garbage cans will be fined one hundred and ten dollars." I think more civilians would listen if they put up a sign with that warning. Then if a person gets caught they will pay the price. This will probably keep people from make this mistake again. The city would make more money and keep our environment cleaner at the same time.

Sincerely,

Max Garcia

PC#236

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JUL 02 2009

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board,

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

Only you can save Illinois! Hello. I am a concerned student at Thomas J. Waters Elementary School. I and several other students have recently been to the Chicago River and took several tests of Chicago's water supply. To the student's dismay, the water showed very poor tests. Some of the scores were a one (four ppm) in the Dissolved Oxygen test, a three (one or two ppm) in BOD, and a positive in the Coliform Bacteria test! After seeing these tests many students were shocked! We were also very worried because there were bacteria in our water supply! Just the day before the class saw a video about the Chicago River and how nice it used to be in the 1980's. The water was so clean and test results had great grades. Now when we look at the current river tests, they are failing miserably. This is not healthy for the citizens of Illinois because there were proven to be bacteria in the waters. Bacteria that are in the water that we drink get into our systems which can cause all sorts of problems and diseases. For example, in the earlier years, people dumped all of their sewage into the waters and it intoxicated it. So after that the river got bacteria and the citizens drank it. Thus the bacteria caused diseases that killed thousands of Chicagoans back then. One of the deadly diseases that the people died from was none other than the disease called cholera!

So Please, can you enhance the water levels and tests to make the Chicago River cleaner? That way the chances of people getting sick are lessened. You wouldn't want what happened many years ago to occur again, now would you? Not to mention that citizens would be very pleased by your actions. It is a win- win situation. You are keeping the river, our water supply, clean, saving countless lives, getting more drinkable water, saving the environment, and getting all of the credits! So while we still can, save the future of Illinois. If we don't act fast then soon the waters will be much too infected and it will be too late to save it! Please help the Illinois' water supply because that is your duty as an American citizen!

Sincerely,
Ariel Jordan

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

I'm a student at Thomas J. Waters. Elementary School. My class and I had gone to the Chicago River and took some tests to determine how filthy it was and the results that we got weren't that great. Many of the answers were very low and it had clearly stated that in the river there was sewage. To me it was clearly telling us that it wanted us to clean it out. It needed immediate treatment. But we don't have the appropriate equipment to do it. If we could please get your help we wouldn't have to watch the filthiness and actually be able to clearly see the joyful fishes swim around. So if you could please help us it would be an honor!!!! That way we would have a cleaner river which equals a cleaner life. Depending on what you do people follow, so if you help us clean out the river the people will get motivated to keep on helping our environment. This will prevent anymore pollution and a healthier river. My class and I have gone to the river twice and took water test twice because when we tested the river for the bacteria the test had given us a result of yellow water which was supposed to be a bluish color. The result is a mystery because we don't know why it came out like that. But you can help us find out!

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Cambron

PC#238

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

Dear Illinois State Pollution Control Board,

My name is Kimberly Cortes; I am a student at Thomas J. Waters School in sixth grade. My class has been studying the river, and has been testing it. We go every month and see if there is any sewage that comes from homes. Every time we go there it's the same result there is sewage and ducks have to swim in there. We give the river a grade based on temperature, oxygen, bacteria, and sewage. Last time we went to the river it got a C+ and that is not good a matter a fact it's horrible. We know we did not make a mistake because we double check 4 times. So we need to make the river cleaner. So I suggest you should upgrade the cleaning on the water.

We can do this by using the same levels of quality that our neighbor Indiana uses. They have three levels that make the water clear and blue. Imagine we could have a clean lake full of life, we could also use a ultra-violet light that makes it clean. With this we could bring more tourists and even help us with the 2016 Olympics. So please help and upgrade so we could have a clean and clear river full of life.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Cortes