

Sep 21, 2010

Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center 100 W. Randolph Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601

PC# 485

Thank you for your First Notice which recognizes that the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River are being used for recreational purposes. I support Illinois EPA's proposal to require disinfection at MWRD sewage plants, and to protect aquatic life in these waters from thermal pollution.

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CLERK'S OFFICE

SEP 22 2010

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

The Chicago River has been a pathway for pathogens for too long! Running through the heart of the Chicago Region the river has long been denied some of the basic goals of the Clean Water Act namely that all waters should be "drinkable, swimmable and fishable." Failure to disinfect sewage from all Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) treatment plants put both people and wildlife at risk of becoming ill.

The Chicago Area Waterways and Lower Des Plaines River are important Illinois resources. As you move forward with the rulemaking process, I urge you to require MWRD to disinfect the sewage it discharges to these waterways.

Sincerely,

Mr. Greg Debros
6438 Cermak Rd
Berwyn, IL 60402-2307
(630) 430-1656

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I took my daughter on a kayak trip around Goose Island this summer and the water quality was unpleasant at best. We saw one turtle, one stork, many dragonflies, and two dead fish floating belly up. Overall it was a fun outing. Unfortunately, I won't take her back there again given what I've learned from news reports and the preliminary Cheers Report. We sat for an hour in polluted kayak bilge water. We don't want water that hopefully won't make us sick, we want water that is good for us and respectful to our environment!

It is a shame that the MWRD's elected board doesn't want to do their job, and clean up the river to modern standards. For pennys a day we could make our rivers a magnet for recreation, education, and tourism. Maybe your rules can nudge them out of their comfort zone.

Please complete the process of rule making that will require the MWRD of Greater Chicago to disinfect our effluent prior to releasing it back into our environment. Clean glacial water should be returned clean after use. Times have changed since the water treatment system was created, and the MWRD system must keep up with the needs of the people.

Thank you so much, and may you make the correct decision.

The Chicago Area Waterways and Lower Des Plaines River are important Illinois resources. As you move forward with the rulemaking process, I urge you to require MWRD to disinfect the sewage it discharges to these waterways.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mike Erickson
8756 S Rockwell Ave
Evergreen Park, IL 60805-1125
(708) 423-2982

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I am a regular kayaker and am shocked at the policies of the MWRD. If there is no risk with undisinfected effluent, I would like to know why they are not proposing saving money by ceasing to disinfect water going into the Des Plaines River. The Chicago is a far more used waterway by tourists, commuters, fisherman and recreational boaters, yet they still insist on treating it as an open sewer. This is a vital local waterway and should be treated as a resource not a dumping ground.

The Chicago Area Waterways and Lower Des Plaines River are important Illinois resources. As you move forward with the rulemaking process, I urge you to require MWRD to disinfect the sewage it discharges to these waterways.

Sincerely,

Mr. Bradley Hack
4835 N Oakley Ave
Chicago, IL 60625-1917

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Chicago, IL 60601

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As a voter who regularly uses Chicago-area waterways for kayaking and also to hike along, I will watch for your support of disinfection.

The Chicago Area Waterways and Lower Des Plaines River are important Illinois resources. As you move forward with the rulemaking process, I urge you to require MWRD to disinfect the sewage it discharges to these waterways.

Sincerely,

Dr. H. Jean Bryan
1927 W Farwell Ave
Chicago, IL 60626-3102

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