

From: Iralda Capaccio <eusebiam@verizon.net>  
To: <therria@jpcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 2/8/2012 4:19 PM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Feb 8, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers™ of 2011.

The Chicago River has become a true community resource with all kinds of wildlife, new riverfront parks, residential communities, restaurants, and businesses that are dependent on a healthy river. As a region we have spent billions of dollars to clean up the river, but we have not finished the job

As you know, the U.S. EPA has recently notified Illinois EPA that they must enact stricter regulations that protect the public from the polluted water of the Chicago River. I request that you proactively take steps to tackle the issue of disinfection to protect the citizens of Chicago.

The Clean Water Act requires that we continually improve our waterways to the greatest extent possible. The law clearly states that we need to keep trying until we get it right. The Illinois EPA, and now the U.S. EPA, have recognized that it is time to improve our water quality and establish new standards for how we treat the river. We support the national and state EPA, and call on you to take responsibility for cleaning up the sewage effluent in Chicago's water.

Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Iralda Capaccio  
337 Hudson Rd  
Sudbury, MA 01776-1629

PC#1294  
R08-9(c)

From: KA H <alohakah@aol.com>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 2/11/2012 4:25 AM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Feb 11, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC #1295

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers™ of 2011.

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Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Ms. KA H  
1778 Ala Moana Blvd  
Honolulu, HI 96815-1605

From: Oscar Revilla Alguacil <oscarrevilla10@hotmail.com>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 2/14/2012 7:22 AM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Feb 14, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers<sup>TM</sup> of 2011.

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Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mr. Oscar Revilla Alguacil  
Juan de Herrera  
San Sebastian de los Reyes, NC 28024

PC#1296

From: Dale Patterson <mrgrease@live.com>  
To: <therria@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 2/15/2012 12:54 PM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Feb 15, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC# 1297

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers<sup>TM</sup> of 2011.

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Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mr. Dale Patterson  
8159 Northland Dr NE  
Rockford, MI 49341-9602

From: Kraig Schweiss <schweiss@thewisp.net>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 2/18/2012 1:32 AM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Feb 18, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC#1298

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers<sup>TM</sup> of 2011.

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Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mr. Kraig Schweiss  
19720 Pennington Rd  
Sterling, IL 61081-9517

From: Karen Tucker <ks.tucker48@gmail.com>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 2/24/2012 1:13 PM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Feb 24, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC# 1299

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

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Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Ms. Karen Tucker  
PO Box 18362  
Pensacola, FL 32523-8362

From: Debra Gakeler <gakeler@everestkc.net>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 2/25/2012 9:15 AM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Feb 25, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC#1300

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers<sup>TM</sup> of 2011.

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Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Debra Gakeler  
11503 Rosehill Rd  
Overland Park, KS 66210-1333

**From:** Sandra Suty <sksuty@yahoo.com>  
**To:** <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
**Date:** 2/26/2012 6:47 AM  
**Subject:** Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Feb 26, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC#1301

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers<sup>TM</sup> of 2011.

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Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Ms. Sandra Suty  
3163 Fairbury Ln  
Fairfax, VA 22031-1912

From: Robert Cotter <mountain88@verizon.net>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 2/27/2012 9:24 AM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Feb 27, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC#1302

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

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Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Cotter  
1120 W Welsh Rd  
Ambler, PA 19002-1413

From: Mark Salamon <marksalamon@aol.com>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 2/28/2012 6:06 PM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Feb 28, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC#1303

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers<sup>TM</sup> of 2011.

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Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Salamon  
851 Viewridge Dr  
San Mateo, CA 94403-4039

From: Ryan Bradley <cellq7@yahoo.com>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 2/28/2012 6:41 PM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Feb 28, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC#1304

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers<sup>TM</sup> of 2011.

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Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mr. Ryan Bradley  
13 Laurel Hill Rd Unit B  
Greenbelt, MD 20770-7773

From: Jean Pierre <jean3\_6pierre@yahoo.com>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 3/14/2012 3:09 PM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Mar 14, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC# 1305

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

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Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mr. Jean Pierre  
1326 Skyline  
ML, WA 98837

From: Jane Kelsberg <jkelsberg@yahoo.com>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 3/16/2012 3:12 PM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Mar 16, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

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Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Ms. Jane Kelsberg  
1715 Hillcrest Ave  
Antioch, CA 94509-2009

PC#1306

From: STEPHAN ALTSCHUL <boongatpig@frontiernet.net>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 5/8/2012 6:19 PM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

May 8, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC# 1307

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers<sup>TM</sup> of 2011.

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Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mr. STEPHAN ALTSCHUL  
76 Green Pl  
Monterey, TN 38574-7030

From: Dawn Galindo <dgalindo@umbc.edu>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 3/21/2012 11:24 AM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Mar 21, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC#1308

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

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The Clean Water Act requires that we continually improve our waterways to the greatest extent possible. The law clearly states that we need to keep trying until we get it right. The Illinois EPA, and now the U.S. EPA, have recognized that it is time to improve our water quality and establish new standards for how we treat the river. We support the national and state EPA, and call on you to take responsibility for cleaning up the sewage effluent in Chicago's water.

Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dawn Galindo  
2011 Cedar Circle Dr  
Baltimore, MD 21228-3744

From: Douglas Depker <ddepker@gmail.com>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 3/22/2012 8:29 PM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Mar 22, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC#1309

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers<sup>TM</sup> of 2011.

The Chicago River has become a true community resource with all kinds of wildlife, new riverfront parks, residential communities, restaurants, and businesses that are dependent on a healthy river. As a region we have spent billions of dollars to clean up the river, but we have not finished the job.

As you know, the U.S. EPA has recently notified Illinois EPA that they must enact stricter regulations that protect the public from the polluted water of the Chicago River. I request that you proactively take steps to tackle the issue of disinfection to protect the citizens of Chicago.

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Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mr. Douglas Depker  
2233 Woodview Dr  
Flower Mound, TX 75028-1922

From: Shelly Peterson <shellyslily@live.com>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 3/24/2012 2:46 AM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Mar 24, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC#1310

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers<sup>TM</sup> of 2011.

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The Clean Water Act requires that we continually improve our waterways to the greatest extent possible. The law clearly states that we need to keep trying until we get it right. The Illinois EPA, and now the U.S. EPA, have recognized that it is time to improve our water quality and establish new standards for how we treat the river. We support the national and state EPA, and call on you to take responsibility for cleaning up the sewage effluent in Chicago's water.

Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Ms. Shelly Peterson  
301 S 82nd St Apt 5  
Tacoma, WA 98408-5813

From: Barbara Voss <barbaravoss@earthlink.net>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 3/30/2012 9:40 PM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Mar 30, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC#1311

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers<sup>TM</sup> of 2011.

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The Clean Water Act requires that we continually improve our waterways to the greatest extent possible. The law clearly states that we need to keep trying until we get it right. The Illinois EPA, and now the U.S. EPA, have recognized that it is time to improve our water quality and establish new standards for how we treat the river. We support the national and state EPA, and call on you to take responsibility for cleaning up the sewage effluent in Chicago's water.

Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Voss  
7001 NE 137th St  
Kirkland, WA 98034-5010

From: cristina Taratchila <cristina.taratchila@yahoo.com>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 3/31/2012 6:12 PM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Mar 31, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC#1312

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers<sup>TM</sup> of 2011.

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Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Ms. cristina Taratchila  
274 W Verdugo Ave Apt 212  
Burbank, CA 91502-2877

March 16, 2012

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

PC#1313

**RE: Rule Making R08-009**

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

On behalf of Thomas Hoyne Elementary School, I am writing to express my support for the recommended water quality standard improvements proposed by the Illinois EPA for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River as rule making R08-009.

These changes are long overdue and recommended only after five years of study on the CAWS and seven on the Lower Des Plaines. We should all support the Illinois EPA's effort and approve the changes.

As a student, I think it is critical that:

- The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District disinfect sewage treatment plant effluent to kill bacteria and protect public health and
- Temperature and dissolved oxygen standards be implemented to protect fish and help them flourish.

Over the years, the entire CAWS system has changed dramatically. The water, once full of raw sewage and industrial filth, has vastly improved through the leadership of agencies like the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and its Tunnel and Reservoir Plan. Public access has increased considerably as local governments incorporated these rivers into their master planning. The City of Chicago, the Chicago Park District, and suburbs like Blue Island and Skokie have poured millions into river access for paddling, fishing, and crew. And so much work has been done to improve habitat and control pollution that in the Chicago River system, species of fish have climbed from under 10 to nearly 70, including game fish favorites like large-mouth bass and bluegill and yellow perch.

Because a review like this only comes along every 20 years, right now we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to continue our momentum by supporting the Illinois EPA recommendations so we can make the next quantum leap forward in water quality.

There is no magic bullet and or all-in-one measure that can eliminate water pollution but we know that if we want the Chicago River to continue to improve and serve our communities as a recreational, natural and economic resource, disinfection and the rest of the Illinois EPA's recommendations are essential.

I believe that as a society it is our moral obligation to ensure that we work to achieve the highest potential for shared resources, including and especially water. And as stewards of these natural resources, we should not be seeking the minimum in improvement, but the maximum.

Thank you,

Damarco Sheppard  
8914 S. Essex  
Chicago, IL 60617

March 16, 2012

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

PC#1314

**RE: Rule Making R08-009**

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

On behalf of Thomas Hoyne Elementary School, I am writing to express my support for the recommended water quality standard improvements proposed by the Illinois EPA for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River as rule making R08-009.

These changes are long overdue and recommended only after five years of study on the CAWS and seven on the Lower Des Plaines. We should all support the Illinois EPA's effort and approve the changes.

As a student, I think it is critical that:

- The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District disinfect sewage treatment plant effluent to kill bacteria and protect public health and
- Temperature and dissolved oxygen standards be implemented to protect fish and help them flourish.

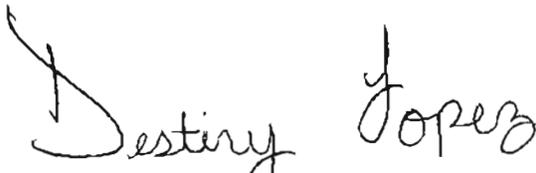
Over the years, the entire CAWS system has changed dramatically. The water, once full of raw sewage and industrial filth, has vastly improved through the leadership of agencies like the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and its Tunnel and Reservoir Plan. Public access has increased considerably as local governments incorporated these rivers into their master planning. The City of Chicago, the Chicago Park District, and suburbs like Blue Island and Skokie have poured millions into river access for paddling, fishing, and crew. And so much work has been done to improve habitat and control pollution that in the Chicago River system, species of fish have climbed from under 10 to nearly 70, including game fish favorites like large-mouth bass and bluegill and yellow perch.

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I believe that as a society it is our moral obligation to ensure that we work to achieve the highest potential for shared resources, including and especially water. And as stewards of these natural resources, we should not be seeking the minimum in improvement, but the maximum.

Thank you,

  
9355 S. Yates Blvd  
Chicago IL 60617



March 16, 2012

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

PC# 1315

**RE: Rule Making R08-009**

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

On behalf of Thomas Hoyne Elementary School, I am writing to express my support for the recommended water quality standard improvements proposed by the Illinois EPA for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River as rule making R08-009.

These changes are long overdue and recommended only after five years of study on the CAWS and seven on the Lower Des Plaines. We should all support the Illinois EPA's effort and approve the changes.

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Thank you,

Melnyell

Champion

8520 S. Chappell Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60617

March 16, 2012

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

PC#1316

**RE: Rule Making R08-009**

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

On behalf of Thomas Hoyne Elementary School, I am writing to express my support for the recommended water quality standard improvements proposed by the Illinois EPA for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River as rule making R08-009.

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I believe that as a society it is our moral obligation to ensure that we work to achieve the highest potential for shared resources, including and especially water. And as stewards of these natural resources, we should not be seeking the minimum in improvement, but the maximum.

Thank you,

Darius Buckley  
8923 S. Yates Blvd  
Chicago, IL 60617

March 16, 2012

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

PC#1317

**RE: Rule Making R08-009**

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

On behalf of Thomas Hoyne Elementary School, I am writing to express my support for the recommended water quality standard improvements proposed by the Illinois EPA for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River as rule making R08-009.

These changes are long overdue and recommended only after five years of study on the CAWS and seven on the Lower Des Plaines. We should all support the Illinois EPA's effort and approve the changes.

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I believe that as a society it is our moral obligation to ensure that we work to achieve the highest potential for shared resources, including and especially water. And as stewards of these natural resources, we should not be seeking the minimum in improvement, but the maximum.

Thank you,

Delani Christmas  
8721 S. Paxton  
Chicago, IL 60617

March 16, 2012

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

PC#1318

**RE: Rule Making R08-009**

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

On behalf of Thomas Hoyne Elementary School, I am writing to express my support for the recommended water quality standard improvements proposed by the Illinois EPA for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River as rule making R08-009.

These changes are long overdue and recommended only after five years of study on the CAWS and seven on the Lower Des Plaines. We should all support the Illinois EPA's effort and approve the changes.

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Because a review like this only comes along every 20 years, right now we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to continue our momentum by supporting the Illinois EPA recommendations so we can make the next quantum leap forward in water quality.

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I believe that as a society it is our moral obligation to ensure that we work to achieve the highest potential for shared resources, including and especially water. And as stewards of these natural resources, we should not be seeking the minimum in improvement, but the maximum.

Thank you,

Maya Brown  
9029 South Paxton Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60617

[REDACTED]

March 16, 2012

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

PC# 1319

**RE: Rule Making R08-009**

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

On behalf of Thomas Hoyne Elementary School, I am writing to express my support for the recommended water quality standard improvements proposed by the Illinois EPA for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River as rule making R08-009.

These changes are long overdue and recommended only after five years of study on the CAWS and seven on the Lower Des Plaines. We should all support the Illinois EPA's effort and approve the changes.

As a student, I think it is critical that:

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I believe that as a society it is our moral obligation to ensure that we work to achieve the highest potential for shared resources, including and especially water. And as stewards of these natural resources, we should not be seeking the minimum in improvement, but the maximum.

Thank you,

Miguel Lara  
8917 S. Clyde Ave  
Chicago, IL 60617



March 16, 2012

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

Pc#1320

**RE: Rule Making R08-009**

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

On behalf of Thomas Hoyne Elementary School, I am writing to express my support for the recommended water quality standard improvements proposed by the Illinois EPA for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River as rule making R08-009.

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I believe that as a society it is our moral obligation to ensure that we work to achieve the highest potential for shared resources, including and especially water. And as stewards of these natural resources, we should not be seeking the minimum in improvement, but the maximum.

Thank you,



Paradise

Hans

773-336-5455

8537 South Oglesby  
Chicago, IL 60617

March 16, 2012

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

PC# 1321

**RE: Rule Making R08-009**

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

On behalf of Thomas Hoyne Elementary School, I am writing to express my support for the recommended water quality standard improvements proposed by the Illinois EPA for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River as rule making R08-009.

These changes are long overdue and recommended only after five years of study on the CAWS and seven on the Lower Des Plaines. We should all support the Illinois EPA's effort and approve the changes.

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There is no magic bullet and or all-in-one measure that can eliminate water pollution but we know that if we want the Chicago River to continue to improve and serve our communities as a recreational, natural and economic resource, disinfection and the rest of the Illinois EPA's recommendations are essential.

I believe that as a society it is our moral obligation to ensure that we work to achieve the highest potential for shared resources, including and especially water. And as stewards of these natural resources, we should not be seeking the minimum in improvement, but the maximum.

Thank you,

Tyler Perry

9033 S. Yates  
Chicago IL 60617



March 16, 2012

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

PC#1322

**RE: Rule Making R08-009**

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

On behalf of Thomas Hoyne Elementary School, I am writing to express my support for the recommended water quality standard improvements proposed by the Illinois EPA for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River as rule making R08-009.

These changes are long overdue and recommended only after five years of study on the CAWS and seven on the Lower Des Plaines. We should all support the Illinois EPA's effort and approve the changes.

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There is no magic bullet and or all-in-one measure that can eliminate water pollution but we know that if we want the Chicago River to continue to improve and serve our communities as a recreational, natural and economic resource, disinfection and the rest of the Illinois EPA's recommendations are essential.

I believe that as a society it is our moral obligation to ensure that we work to achieve the highest potential for shared resources, including and especially water. And as stewards of these natural resources, we should not be seeking the minimum in improvement, but the maximum.

Thank you, *Jeremy Bonds*  
7153 S. Eastend  
Chicago, IL 60617  


March 16, 2012

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

PC# 1323

**RE: Rule Making R08-009**

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

On behalf of Thomas Hoyne Elementary School, I am writing to express my support for the recommended water quality standard improvements proposed by the Illinois EPA for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River as rule making R08-009.

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Thank you,

*Jasmine Smith*

8952 S. Essler  
Chicago, IL 60617

March 16, 2012

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

PC#1324

**RE: Rule Making R08-009**

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

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Thank you,

Edell Hatchett

9003 S. Essex  
Chicago, IL 60617

March 16, 2012

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

PC# 1325

**RE: Rule Making R08-009**

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

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Thank you,

Pracious Hampton

9105 S. Yates Chicago, IL 60617

March 16, 2012

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

Pct#1326

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Thank you,

Phatit Washington  
2145 East 87<sup>th</sup> Street Apt 2B  
Chicago, IL 60617

March 16, 2012

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

PC#1327

**RE: Rule Making R08-009**

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

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Thank you,

*Britney Reed  
9011 s. Paxton Av.  
60617 Chicago, IL.*

March 16, 2012

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

PC#1328

**RE: Rule Making R08-009**

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Thank you,

Imanni Buie  
(312) 671 0414  
9025 S. Crandon  
Chicago IL.

March 16, 2012

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

PC#1329

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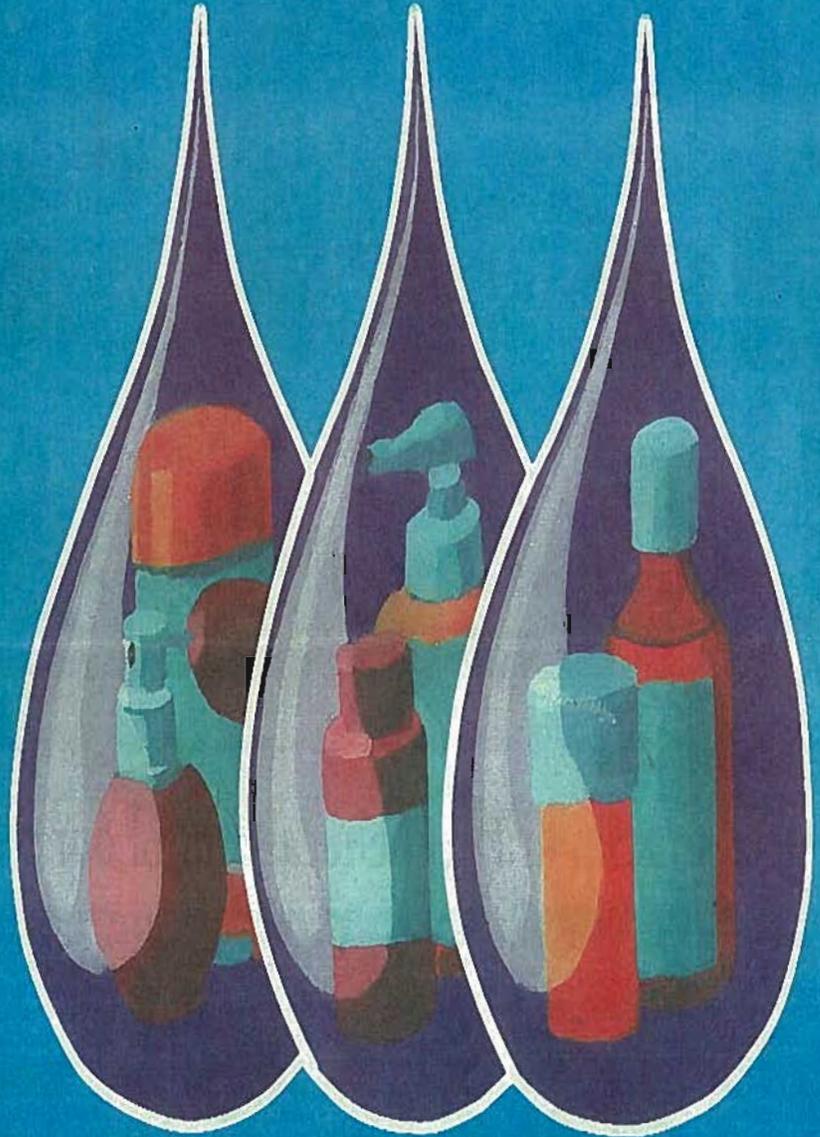
Thank you,

Faith Brown

PC#1330

# It's what you can't see...

*Learn about hidden chemicals in your water*



## TOXINS

Chemicals in pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs)

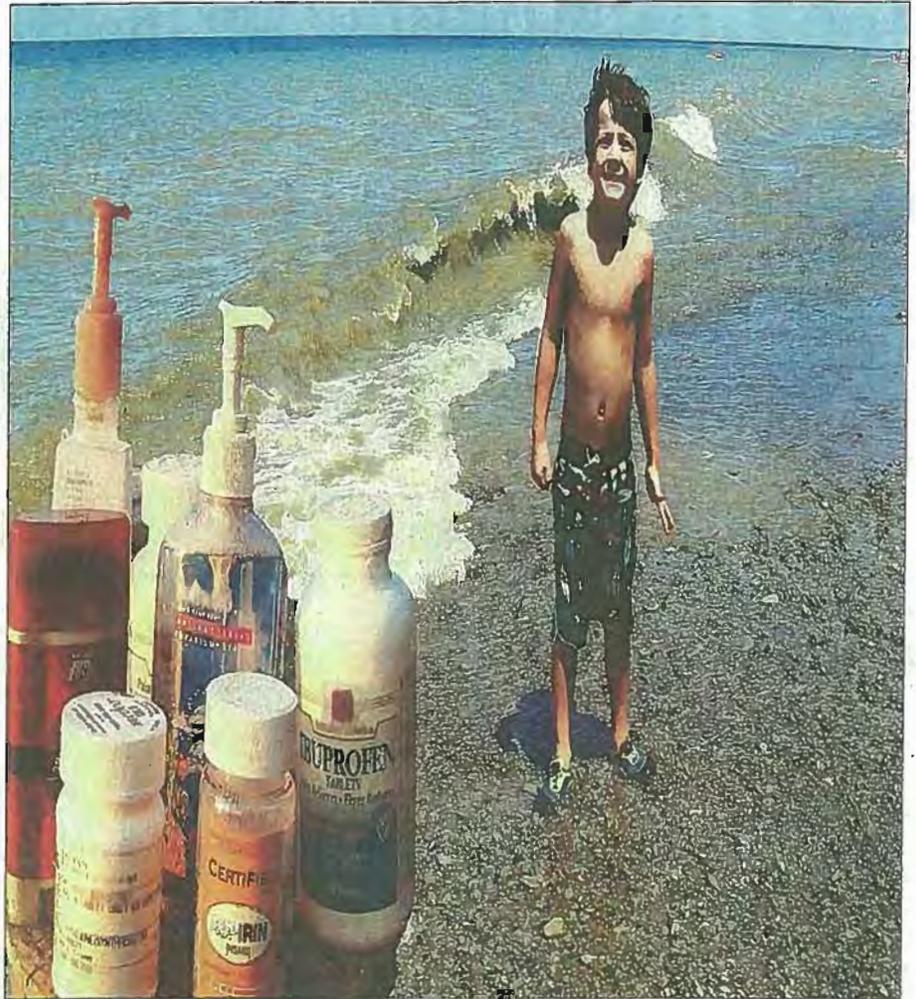
## PROBLEMS

Inadequate laws, outdated waste treatment and health risks

## SOLUTIONS

Education, partnerships, research, and best practices

## ERIE TIMES-NEWS/GREAT LAKES SEA GRANT NETWORK: HIDDEN CHEMICALS IN YOUR WATER



ANNA McCARTHY/Courtesy photo

Won't you take time to learn how you can keep chemicals in your pharmaceuticals and personal care products from getting into the Great Lakes, the source of drinking water for 42 million people in the U.S. and Canada?

# We need to keep drugs, chemicals out of our water

**W**e have a finite supply of water. Yet almost 7 billion people are polluting our streams, lakes and oceans at an ever-increasing rate with man-made chemicals found in everyday products, including pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs). There are no laws to keep these chemicals out of the environment, and inadequate laws don't keep them out of products we use daily.

Since the fall of 2010, Sea Grant programs in Indiana, Illinois, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania have been teaching people of all ages about problems caused by chemicals in PPCPs, and



involving them in finding solutions.

Funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative of the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency has allowed these Great Lakes Sea Grant Network members to take action to keep PPCPs out of the Great Lakes.

This education campaign began with the publication "Dose of Reality" in September 2010. This 12-page newspaper insert, prepared in cooperation with the Erie Times-News Newspaper in Education program, told the story of these contaminants, the importance of Great Lakes freshwater, the severe risks of taking freshwater for granted; and what some concerned people have done to address the problems. But most importantly, it shared ideas that every citizen can

implement to tackle these serious issues.

To meet their goals of educating people and keeping pills out of the environment through collection events and outreach, the Sea Grant Partners also relied on community partners and student service-learning projects for help.

"Our goal is to educate members of the legislature, professionals who produce, prescribe and dispense pharmaceuticals and the public that uses them," said Marti Martz, coastal outreach specialist for Pennsylvania Sea Grant and lead investigator for this project. "This issue resonates with most people we

contact and they are happy to bring it up with their peers. Word of mouth transmission helps spread our message around the Great Lakes basin."

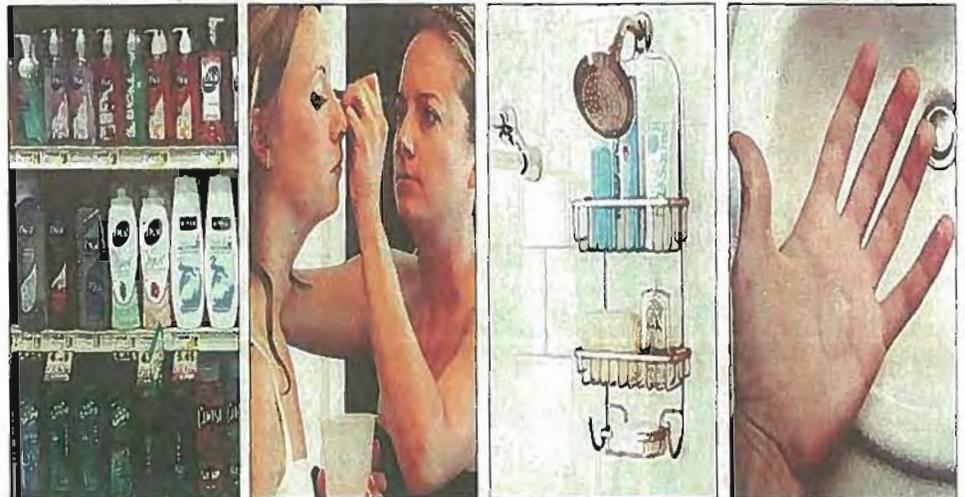
"This special NIE supplement shares additional information and stories about people and organizations that are making a difference to improve the health of the Great Lakes by reducing the amount of persistent toxic substances that enter them. "More mindful PPCP consumption and waste minimization must be part of the solution," said Martz. "We don't realize our personal contribution to this problem until someone makes us aware of it."

About the cover: Gina Longstreet, a recent graduate of Central Career and Technical School in Erie, Pa., designed the "Dose of Reality" cover. Her billboard design, which won the school billboard competition sponsored by Pennsylvania Sea Grant and Earth Action, was also chosen for the cover of this publication. Longstreet was a student in Joe Kruf's

## ERIE TIMES-NIE/GREAT LAKES SEA GRANT NETWORK: HIDDEN CHEMICALS IN YOUR WATER



Drugs taken by people, pets and farm animals, as well as discarded leftover medications, get into water sources when they are flushed, go down the drain or are carried by stormwater from farms and streets, and from landfill leachate.



Chemicals in hygiene and beauty products enter wastewater when you bathe or wash your hands. Insufficient regulation to keep manufactured chemicals out of the water allows them to build up in the environment.

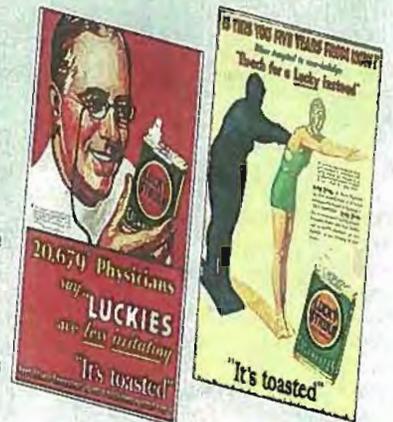
## How do PPCP chemicals get into our water?

Private septic systems and municipal waste treatment plants were not designed to detect or remove PPCPs. Studies show these compounds persist in the environment; pass through water, soil and air; and bioaccumulate in the food chain.

Pharmaceutical residues have been detected in drinking water in very small amounts. The American Water Works Association (AWWA) explains that "PPCPs are a group of compounds consisting of human and veterinary drugs (prescription or over-the-counter) and consumer products, such as fragrance,

### NEWSPAPER ACTIVITY

Are your PPCP buying habits influenced by ads? While articles are intended to inform you using facts, advertisements are designed to influence you to buy something even if it means distorting the truth. Collect PPCP ads and list them according to their appeal. Do any of them imply: "Everybody else is doing it," or "users of this product are just like you"? Do the ads use techniques like card stacking — distorting or omitting facts, testimonials or endorsements by famous people, or transference — association of a respected person such as a doctor with a product or idea? Design an ad to inform and influence people to only buy and use PPCPs that don't harm you or the environment. Use your ad in a campaign to educate others in your school or organization about the information you learn from reading this publication.



in the environment seems to come from unmetabolized

trash. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection

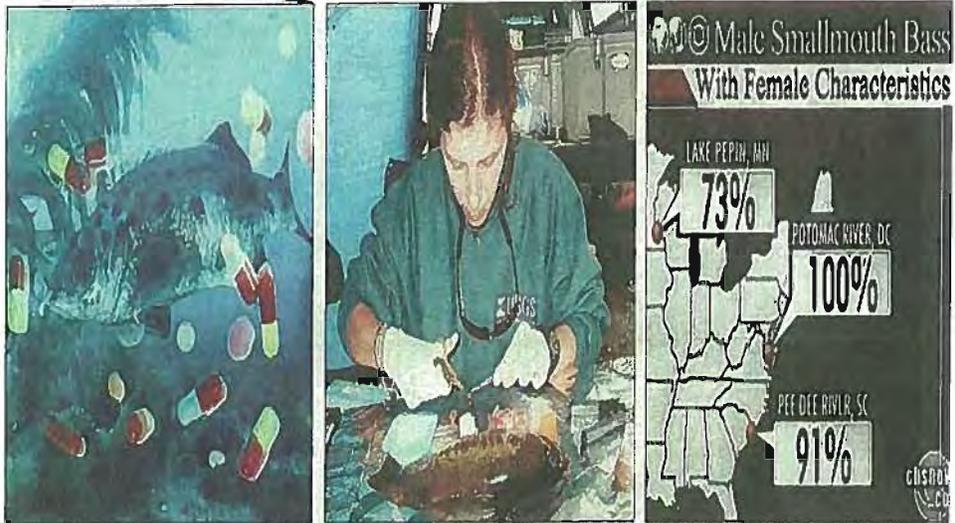
everywhere people use personal care products. PPCPs

streams, groundwater, coastal marine environments and

## ERIE TIMES-NIE/GREAT LAKES SEA GRANT NETWORK: HIDDEN CHEMICALS IN YOUR WATER



Aquatic organisms, unborn babies, and young children are most vulnerable to reproductive and developmental harm due to ingredients found in pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs). Many of these bioactive chemicals act as endocrine disruptors. Triclosan, a pesticide in antibacterial soaps; manufactured fragrances found in many products; and chemicals used in pharmaceuticals can affect fetal growth and development because they interfere with natural hormones.



Observed feminization of aquatic animals has raised concerns about estrogenic compounds in water supplies. Antibiotic resistance is another problem.

# Synthetic chemicals block natural hormones

**M**an-made chemicals found in PPCPs can cause endocrine disruption because they interfere with natural hormones; one such chemical is triclosan, a pesticide found in antibacterial soaps.

While such chemicals can lower sperm count and harm immune systems in humans, neither the U.S. Food and Drug Administration nor the EPA has done much to control them.

Many of these chemicals mimic, disrupt or block the actions of natural hormones such as insulin, thyroxine, estrogen and testosterone. Considering the fact the endocrine system regulates

### NEWSPAPER ACTIVITY

Choose three articles in this publication and predict the content of the articles based on the headline and what you may already know about the topic. After reading the stories, re-write the headlines. Share them with others and ask which headlines they like best — yours or the ones used by the writers.

disastrous consequences.

Hormones control all growth, sexual development and behavior, the production and utilization of insulin, metabolism, intelligence and behavior and the ability to reproduce.

While studies show that triclosan is no more effective at preventing illness or removing

in homes, schools and other institutions.

Anyone who reads a magazine or watches TV might believe antibacterial soaps are more effective because advertising says that "they kill 99.9 percent of germs."

With names like "Tangelo Orange Twist" and "Sugar Lemon Fizz," they are even



## ERIE TIMES-NIE/GREAT LAKES SEA GRANT NETWORK: HIDDEN CHEMICALS IN YOUR WATER



TOM LAUER/Contributed photo



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Measurable concentrations of pharmaceuticals were found in southern Lake Michigan. Chicago and the Chicago River are just inside the lock to Lake Michigan.

Fluoxetine and other PPCP chemicals were found in water near Presque Isle State Park's Lake Erie beaches.

# Scientists seek more answers about PPCP dangers

Steve Mauro, a Mercyhurst College microbiologist, is concerned about the effect of chemicals found in pharmaceuticals and personal care products on the ecosystem since even low levels damage the reproductive systems of mollusks and can also affect fish brains.

Chemicals used in PPCPs have been found in surface water, sewage effluent, sewage sludge, groundwater, drinking water, and plants grown in soil treated with biosolids and irrigated with contaminated water.

Low doses of fluoxetine and other chemicals were found by Mauro and his team in water near Presque Isle State Park's Lake Erie beaches. National Geographic featured Mauro's work in the June 2011 edition.

His initial work to study PPCPs was funded by Pennsylvania Sea Grant, which is one of 32 programs nationwide that supports applied research on issues critical to coastal resources and management.

Mauro has since received EPA funding to continue his work. According to his research, fluoxetine, the active ingredient in Prozac, is killing both good and bad bacteria in the lake. This and other chemicals were consistently found in areas that are sewage-free, indicating that these chemicals spread throughout



TOM LAUER/Contributed photo

Patrick Ferguson, a graduate research assistant at Ball State University, conducts water tests to detect PPCPs in southern Lake Michigan.

they know little about the long-term effects of these chemicals on people. There are many other unanswered questions about how PPCPs degrade or interact with other chemicals in the water or chemicals that are used in the water treatment process.

While the concentrations may be low, concerns arise because many of these PPCPs are designed to work in the body at low concentrations. Furthermore, some of the Great Lakes take up to 191 years to flush out pollutants, so these chemicals will remain there for generations.

Funding from Illinois/Indiana Sea Grant allowed researchers Patrick Ferguson, Melody Bernot and Thomas Laur from the Department of Biology at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., to look for PPCPs in southern Lake Michigan. They, too, found measurable concentrations of pharmaceuticals every time they sampled, suggesting ubiquitous dispersal in Lake Michigan.

These and other research projects are continuing to quantify PPCPs and their effects in the field. Lab experiments are also being conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey and others to learn more about the influence of PPCPs found in the environment on fish development, growth and behavior.

**ERIE TIMES-NIE/GREAT LAKES SEA GRANT NETWORK: HIDDEN CHEMICALS IN YOUR WATER**



ANNA MCCARTHEY/CorbisOutlook photo

The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Pharmacy has agreed to educate students at the school and involve them in solutions to disposal problems by organizing and supervising their efforts to gather and analyze data as they interact with the public at collection events.

## Sea Grant develops model take-back programs

**T**here are no federal regulations for discarding household pharmaceutical waste.

While the 1976 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act regulates the management and disposal of hazardous pharmaceutical wastes for manufacturers and the health-care industry, it exempts this same waste discarded from the homes of millions. Instead, individual states may determine how it is disposed. This does nothing to address the facts that most states lack regulations for this waste or that affected water does not recognize state boundaries.

The EPA has urged the public to participate in pharmaceutical "take-back" programs where they exist. However, these events are sporadic and available in too few communities. So what should people do with all those unused prescription and over-

### NEWSPAPER ACTIVITY

Newspapers are an excellent source for learning about your federal, state and local representatives. The letters to the editor are an exceptional way to make your representatives and others in your community aware of important issues. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper sharing key points about problems caused by the use and disposal of PPCPs. Use the opportunity to ask what your representatives are doing to solve these problems. Encourage others in your community to get involved to expedite solutions for disposing unused meds by offering specific steps they can take to make a difference.

responsible for establishing a drug collection program similar to producer-responsibility programs for computers and other products that include hazardous waste. Such a program would immediately end the dangerous practices of flushing drugs down the drain or toilet or throwing drugs into the garbage.

Currently, federal agencies recommend that unused medications be mixed with cat

marcites, such as OxyContin and Percocet, which the U.S. Food and Drug Administration says should be flushed down the toilet to make sure they are not abused. But many find this advice too complicated and confusing, and putting the drugs into landfills is still risky to the environment and to solid waste workers.

However, because manufacturers are currently not inclined to take

### BY THE NUMBERS

**1,289,958**  
Pills collected since Oct. 1, 2010

**650,510**  
People reached since Oct. 1, 2010

SOURCE: Pennsylvania Sea Grant

programs will likely require state and federal laws.

The Sea Grant partners have expanded their efforts to make it easier for consumers to get rid of unused meds by working with legislators, schools of pharmacy and veterinary medicine, hospitals, health departments and the Product Stewardship Institute, (PSI) a national nonprofit membership-based organization.

PST works with state and

groups, federal agencies, and other key stakeholders to reduce the health and environmental impacts of consumer products. Their unique product-stewardship approach attempts to solve waste management problems by encouraging product design changes and mediating stakeholder dialogues.

Sea Grant is working with these groups to develop model take-back programs for permanent solutions for the disposal problems.

One possible solution would allow designated pharmacies to take back expired or unused medications and properly dispose of them through licensed and regulated facilities. Another is the use of mail-back envelopes like those used by the University of Maine Center on Aging.

However, the best solution will involve a collaborative effort by drug manufacturers,

## ERIE TIMES-NIE/GREAT LAKES SEA GRANT NETWORK: HIDDEN CHEMICALS IN YOUR WATER



Top: Elliott Cook, left, assistant professor at the LECOM School of Pharmacy, has partnered with Pennsylvania Sea Grant to educate and involve pharmacy students in community solutions for problems related to unused medications.

AMMA McARTHURY  
Contributed photos



Top: Laura Kammin, left, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant pollution prevention specialist, shares information about PPCPs at the American Veterinary Medical Association Convention in St. Louis. Bottom: Poster created by Ohio Sea Grant about problems associated with PPCPs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



# States pioneer ways to end 'chemical brews'

Partnerships, collaborations, research and best practices have played important roles in the success of the Sea Grant "Undo the Chemical Brew" project since it began in 2010.

Pennsylvania Sea Grant has been working closely with Elliott Cook, assistant professor at the School of Pharmacy at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, to educate pharmacy students and involve them in solutions to problems related to PPCP use and disposal.

Cook and many of the students at the school have volunteered their time to record the unused drugs collected at drug take-back programs in the Erie region. Starting with the 2011 fall semester, PPCP issues will be included in the pharmacy curriculum. Students will also educate consumers about the problems when they do their rotation at some of the local pharmacies.

adherence, patient safety, the environment, drug policy, and drug abuse. All these aspects are vital to the education of a future pharmacist," said Cook. "Also, the students gain experience working side by side with a local nonprofit, PA Sea Grant, by gathering and analyzing data while interacting directly with the public in their field of study. All in all, it is a great experience not only for students and faculty of LECOM, but also the public."

The data collected by Cook and his students is important for determining which drugs are unused and why. This information can be shared with drug manufacturers and medical professionals so they can help eliminate unused drugs at the design and prescription stages.

A partnership between the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network and the University of Maine Center on Aging will give some citizens in selected Great Lakes states a new way to discard

with unwanted prescription and over-the-counter drugs and will be mailed to Maine; the drugs will then be incinerated in the presence of drug enforcement agents. The GLRI grant provided the funding for these mailers. Participants are asked to complete a survey to help researchers gather data about why the drugs were not used.

The Maine mail-back disposal program is one of the first in the nation to deal with the huge amount of unused medications. Also the first state to require manufacturer payment for disposal of old televisions and computer monitors, Maine is currently working on a statewide pharmaceutical disposal system that would be paid for by the drug companies. Mail-in collection systems paid for by drug makers are common in Europe and British Columbia.

Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant (IISG) Pollution Prevention Specialist Laura Kammin has been successful in addressing

"It doesn't matter whether the medicine is intended for people or pets. We are always looking for new partners to help us educate people on this issue," said Kammin. "Educating pet owners about PPCP proper storage and disposal can reduce the number of pets that are poisoned and also keep unused pet meds out of the water."

While at the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Convention in St. Louis, Kammin and IISG staff spoke with vet med students and veterinary professionals from 31 states, Canada, Egypt and Brazil about educating their clients on proper storage and disposal of medicines.

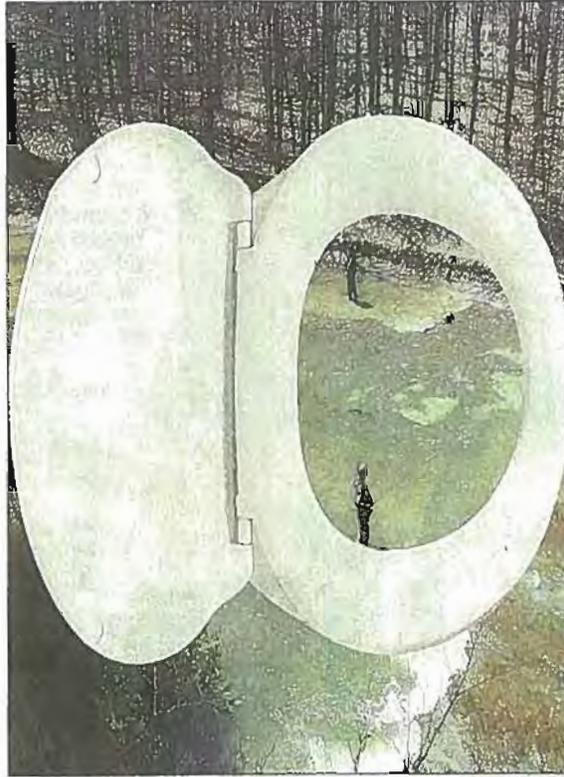
Convention attendees were excited about Sea Grant fact sheets and service-learning curriculum to involve their students and clients. Attendee Doreen Boyd, head librarian at the University of Missouri Zalk Veterinary Medical Library, is helping IISG reach hundreds of

International Veterinary Librarians Discussion Group list serve. IISG will also begin work with the AVMA on other opportunities to partner with veterinary professionals to educate their clients.

Ohio Sea Grant has been educating boaters, anglers and other water enthusiasts through its displays at fishing tournaments, Charter Boat Association meetings, at its Aquatic Visitors Center at Put-In-Bay, Ohio, and through the Lorain County Metro Parks Environmental Series "What's In Our Water?" To date they have talked with and dispensed literature to almost 5,000 individuals.

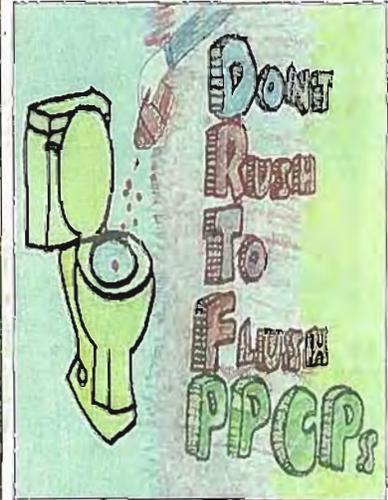
Sea Grant has also been working with local law enforcement agencies and health departments to support a disposal system that reduces the high rate of prescription drug abuse. By offering a consistent, convenient way to get rid of unused medicines, pain pills and other drugs can

## ERIE TIMES-NIE/GREAT LAKES SEA GRANT NETWORK: HIDDEN CHEMICALS IN YOUR WATER



ANNA MCCARTHY/Contributed photo

Studies show that ingredients in pharmaceuticals and personal care products are entering our environment with negative effects on fish and other aquatic life. These chemicals have been detected in drinking water, too. Many people now flush their unused meds and make the problems worse. Prevention is the best solution since wastewater treatment plants and septic systems are not designed to remove these synthetic chemicals.



BEN HARTFORD/4th, 5th, grade 6, teacher is Dana James

Is your wastewater polluting our water resources?

## Take inventory at home to flag 'Dirty Dozen'

**T**ry this. Take an inventory of the assortment of pharmaceuticals and personal care products you use daily. Include any prescription or over-the-counter medicines you take. Don't forget any soap, body wash, toothpaste, shampoo, lotion, deodorant, perfume, shaving cream, lipstick, mascara, eye shadow, hair gel, mousse, hair spray, anti-aging cream or other products. Don't be surprised if you hit 12-15. You're not alone.

Marketing has convinced us that we need these products every day.

Read the ingredients and safety precautions for each product.

Researchers are raising alarms about the cumulative effects many of the compounds found in PPCPs are having on human health and the environment. Do you really want these chemicals to show up in your drinking water?

Which products can you live without? What can you do to improve your health so you don't need to take medications for the rest of your life?

Find the list of the worst chemicals used in personal



ANNA MCCARTHY/Contributed photo

The use of PPCPs has steadily risen since World War II. There was an estimated increase from 2 billion to 3.9 billion annual prescriptions between 1999 and 2009 in the United States alone. On average, women in the U.S. use 12 personal care products daily, men use 6. There are no laws that protect consumers or the environment from synthetic chemicals used in these products. To learn more go to: <http://storyofstuff.org/cosmetics/>

care alternatives.

When you use products without unnecessary toxic chemicals, you send a clear message to manufacturers and retailers that you want safe, effective products that don't

cause companies are already making safer products. Keep your family safe and healthy with these nontoxic soaps and other products. Don't forget to ask friends and family—and

Use the David Suzuki Foundation's "Avoid the Dirty Dozen" mobile shoppers' guide to audit your bathroom and shop for products without harmful ingredients. This Dirty

from any Web-enabled portable browsing device at <http://david.suzuki.org/dirty12/>

Or you can search more than 65,000 products online at [www.](http://www.)

**ERIE TIMES-NIE/GREAT LAKES SEA GRANT NETWORK: HIDDEN CHEMICALS IN YOUR WATER**

# Avoid harmful ingredients

Contrary to popular belief, the U.S. doesn't regulate personal care products for safety, long-term health impacts or environmental damage. Many PCP common ingredients are harmful to people and the environment. Yet consumers buy these products at drug stores, grocery stores, online or in salons, usually without questioning the product's safety. Don't trust the claims. Protect yourself, your family and the environment. Avoid the dirty dozen and use safer alternatives.

## The Dirty Dozen

■ **BHA and BHT:** Preservatives used mainly in moisturizers and makeup. Suspected endocrine disruptors may cause cancer (BHA) and are harmful to fish and other wildlife.

■ **Coal tar dyes:** P-phenylenediamine and colors listed as "CI" followed by a five-digit number. Found in hair dyes and other product colors. The U.S. color name may be listed (e.g. "FD&C Blue No. 1" or "Blue 1"). Potential to cause cancer and may be contaminated with heavy metals toxic to the brain.

■ **DEA-related ingredients:** Used in creamy and foaming products, such as moisturizers and shampoos. Related chemicals are MEA and TEA. Can react to form nitrosamines, which may cause cancer. Harmful to fish and other wildlife.

■ **Dibutyl phthalate:** Plasticizer used in some nail care products. Suspected endocrine disrupter and reproductive toxicant. Harmful to fish and other wildlife.

■ **Formaldehyde-releasing preservative:** Look for DMDM hydantoin, diazolidinyl urea, imidazolidinyl urea, methersamine and quaternium-15. They slowly release small amounts of formaldehyde, which causes cancer.

■ **Parabens:** Preservatives suspected as endocrine disruptors and may

interfere with male reproductive functions.

■ **Parfum (a.k.a. fragrances):** Any mixture of fragrance ingredients—even in some products marketed as "unscented." Can trigger allergies and asthma. Some linked to cancer and neurotoxicity. Some harmful to fish and other wildlife.

■ **PEG compounds:** Used in many cosmetic cream bases. Can be contaminated with 1,4-dioxane, which may cause cancer. Related chemicals include propylene glycol and other ingredients with the letters "eth" (e.g. polyethylene glycol).

■ **Petrolatum:** This petroleum product used for shine in hair products and as a moisture barrier in some lip balms, lipsticks and moisturizers can be contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, which may cause cancer.

■ **Siloxanes:** Look for ingredients ending in "siloxane" or "methicone." These chemicals used to soften, smooth and moisten are suspected endocrine disruptors and reproductive toxicants (cyclotetrasiloxane). Harmful to fish and other wildlife.

■ **Sodium lauryl sulfate:** Used in foaming cosmetics, shampoos, cleansers and bubble bath. Can be contaminated with 1,4-dioxane, which may cause cancer. Related chemicals include sodium lauryl sulfate and other ingredients with the letters "eth" (e.g. sodium laureth sulfate).

■ **Triclosan and triclocarban:** Pesticides used as antibacterials in cosmetics, toothpastes, soaps and antiperspirants are suspected endocrine disruptors and may contribute to antibiotic resistance in bacteria. Harmful to fish and other wildlife.

For more about these ingredients and for a copy of a parent's buying guide, visit [evg.org/childrenshealth](http://evg.org/childrenshealth). For more about human exposure, see [govnews.biz](http://govnews.biz).



## SHARE WHAT YOU LEARN

Word of mouth has been an excellent tool to educate more people about the dangers of PPCPs. With whom will you share this information? Get your friends, family and co-workers involved in preventing these problems.

Top three photos: Students and teachers participating in Sea Grant programs learned to identify hazardous chemicals in personal care products and shared what they learned with others.

Bottom two photos: Students in Lisa Prodeck's science classes at Fort LeBoeuf Middle School in Erie, Pa., shared the information at a local task force meeting sponsored by PA Sea Grant and State Representative John Hornman at the Tom

ERIE TIMES-NIE/GREAT LAKES SEA GRANT NETWORK: HIDDEN CHEMICALS IN YOUR WATER

# Students advocate for new state laws

**O**ne problem an Erie, Pa., student group chose to tackle for their service-learning project is the lack of proper disposal for unused prescription and over-the-counter meds.

Pennsylvania Sea Grant has been working with Earth Action, an environmental education organization, to involve students in solutions to such problems.

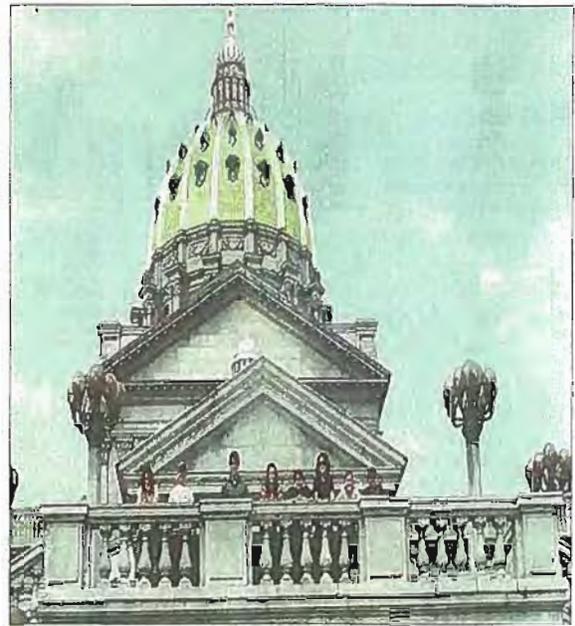
Earth Action Junior PA Lake Erie Watershed Association (JrPLEWA) members from nine junior/senior high schools have been involved with this project since September 2010. Their ultimate goal is to influence legislation and passage of a Pennsylvania pharmaceutical bill that provides for proper disposal of PPCPs and community education to help citizens learn more about the issues.

In January, the group met with Pennsylvania State Reps. Pat Harkins, D-1st Dist., and John Hornaman, D-3rd Dist., to learn about any current legislation and the probability of introducing a new pharmaceutical take-back program bill in the 2011 session. Before making their recommendations to state lawmakers, they researched take-back programs in Canada and other U.S. states and documented the impacts of PPCPs on water quality and aquatic life and potential human health problems.

Interviews and surveys these students conducted in the community to learn what people were doing with their unused meds indicate the majority of respondents flush them or put them in the garbage. Their interviews with pharmacists show that more than half of them were advising their customers to flush their unused meds and that the majority were willing to participate in a state-mandated take-back program if one became available.

The students' culminating event was a four-day trip to Harrisburg in June to meet with the House Northwest PA Legislative Caucus to give recommendations that students hope will be introduced this fall by Rep. Hornaman. They also gave a brief presentation to the Citizen Advisory Council of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the DEP Environmental Education Office.

"The JrPLEWA trip allowed me and my fellow lobbyists to soak up the city's history, polity, and culture," said Molly Giewont. "Meeting Sen. Jane Earl and some of Pennsylvania's representatives like John Hornaman, Pat Harkins and Flo Fabrizio at the Capitol was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity I'll never forget. I truly feel that with their help, our pharmaceutical bill will become a law."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Earth Action JrPLEWA students went to Harrisburg and met with the Northwest PA Legislative Caucus, including representatives John Hornaman, Pat Harkins and Flo Fabrizio and other state officials, to educate them about the importance of passing a pharmaceutical take-back program bill.

# College students employ new tools to say: 'Don't rush to flush'

By HELEN ODMSKE  
Contributing writer

**A** new generation of Great Lakes stakeholders from the University of Buffalo turned a course requirement into a call for action: "Don't rush to flush!"

Thirty students enrolled in the Great Lakes Ecology course at the university tackled the problems associated with PPCPs going down the drains of households around the Great Lakes basin. Their creativity and genuine concern were evident in the public awareness projects they designed to

share their message.

A group of engineering students focused their efforts on investigating the effectiveness of wastewater treatment procedures and shared that information with the class. The knowledge that they weren't designed to remove PPCPs made the students more resolved to keep them out of the environment.

Some groups used Facebook and Twitter to reach thousands of their friends and contacts to survey their behaviors and knowledge about use and proper disposal of PPCPs.

The survey results indicated

disposal. Other students developed posters they displayed around the university, targeting dorms and restroom facilities on campus, to encourage students to think before they flush!

One student designed stickers for bathroom mirrors in the dorms and student apartments that asked: "What are YOU putting down the drain?" These stickers included information for reducing the amount of personal care products used and proper disposal of unwanted/unused medicines.

HELEN ODMSKE, a Coastal



AGUA MACINTYRE/PCO holding photo

ERIE TIMES-NIE/GREAT LAKES SEA GRANT NETWORK: HIDDEN CHEMICALS IN YOUR WATER



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fifteen collection boxes provided by PDP and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant kept 4,607 pounds of expired or unused medicines from causing problems in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin communities in 2010.

# What's in your medicine chest?

By ROBIN GOETTEL and IRENE MILES  
Contributing writers

In most homes, children are kept out of medicine cabinets to protect them from the dangers of chemicals in medications. Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant's (ISG) latest product, "The Medicine Chest," invites high school students to metaphorically open those doors to investigate what makes those chemicals harmful to people, pets, and the environment.

"The new curriculum collection gives educators an instructional tool to create an innovative service-learning experience for their students, while tackling an important environmental and human health concern," said ISG Education Specialist Terri Halley, who helped design this resource. "Through involvement in this project, students serve as agents for change, educating their communities about action steps they can take to reduce harm to aquatic ecosystems from improper disposal of unwanted medicines."

The impetus that serves as the centerpiece for this curriculum is participation in the Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal Program (PDD) established by Pontiac High School teachers.

Jordyn Schara, a student at Reedsburg Area High School, initiated a PDD program in her Wisconsin community. Her goals

include: providing proper free disposal of unused medications, keeping them from contaminating water in rivers, lakes and streams; and keeping young people from using these medications at parties to get high.

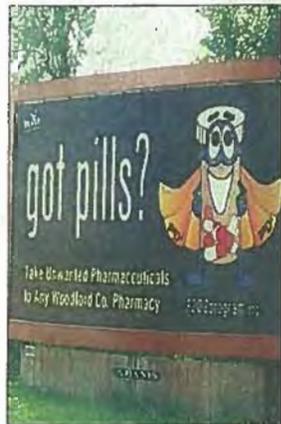
"Young people ages 12 to 17 abuse prescription drugs more than cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine combined," Schara said, citing a 2006 national survey on drug use and health.

Another collaboration with Windy City Earth Force in Chicago has also allowed ISG to work with Chicago teachers Laura Senfeno and Rosemary Reddick and their seventh- and eighth-grade classes to get the word out. Their students were very enthusiastic about creating stewardship projects to inform adults in their community. Students wrote an informational brochure, a public service announcement, and made fliers and distributed them at the nearby train station for the Drug Enforcement Agency collection event in Chicago on April 30.

To download this free curriculum visit [www.iisgsp.org/education/safe\\_disposal\\_curriculum.html](http://www.iisgsp.org/education/safe_disposal_curriculum.html).

ROBIN GOETTEL, ISG director for education, can be reached at [goettel@iisg.edu](mailto:goettel@iisg.edu).

IRENE MILES, ISG communication coordinator, can be reached at [miles@iisg.edu](mailto:miles@iisg.edu).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant and the PDD program use billboards to share proper disposal sites for unused meds.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/Indiana Sea Grant

Robin Goettel, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant director for education works with Windy City Earth Force students in Chicago.

# 4-H youth becomes stewards for safe water ecosystem

By ROBIN GOETTEL  
Contributing writer

In response to the growing national concern about improper disposal, Purdue Extension and the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant Program/University of Illinois Extension developed a 4-H guide to train educators about the safe disposal of unwanted medicines. This pilot project was distributed to Extension Educators in Indiana and Pennsylvania.

contributions to sustain aquatic ecosystems through engaging community stewardship projects using these inquiry-based questions as a framework:

- So, what's the big deal?
- What are the issues?
- What should I be concerned about?
- What are my options?
- How can I let others know about these issues?

Each activity provides resources to complete the (page in curriculum guide)

teacher, ideas for evaluating learning, and many ways for youth to share this new knowledge. Communication methods include speeches, demonstrations, displays, mentoring younger 4-H members, and outreach venues for sharing information with older adults. Links to science standards, background information and additional activities enhance the curriculum. Important life skills described throughout the guide include: information gathering and analysis, using the scientific

problems, decision-making, communicating with others, developing confidence, and becoming a responsible citizen.

Pam Paletta, 4-H youth educator with Penn State Extension in Washington County, Pa., worked with 30 members of her County Council teen youth group during the Washington County Fair in July 2011 to get the word out to the community about proper disposal of unwanted medicines. "Now that I've read the information in this 4-H

group will now educate others. Peggy Ehlers, Extension educator from Dearborn County, Ind., has already worked with her community's medicine collection program and plans to get her county's 4-H youth involved in spring and summer of 2012 to work on information campaigns for area residents.

You can order your copy of the 4-H curriculum guide online at [www.unwantedmeds.org](http://www.unwantedmeds.org).

ROBIN GOETTEL, ISG

From: Adriane Ferreira <ghirlinzoni.drica.adriane@gmail.com>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 4/12/2012 6:43 PM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Apr 12, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers<sup>TM</sup> of 2011.

The Chicago River has become a true community resource with all kinds of wildlife, new riverfront parks, residential communities, restaurants, and businesses that are dependent on a healthy river. As a region we have spent billions of dollars to clean up the river, but we have not finished the job.

As you know, the U.S. EPA has recently notified Illinois EPA that they must enact stricter regulations that protect the public from the polluted water of the Chicago River. I request that you proactively take steps to tackle the issue of disinfection to protect the citizens of Chicago.

The Clean Water Act requires that we continually improve our waterways to the greatest extent possible. The law clearly states that we need to keep trying until we get it right. The Illinois EPA, and now the U.S. EPA, have recognized that it is time to improve our water quality and establish new standards for how we treat the river. We support the national and state EPA, and call on you to take responsibility for cleaning up the sewage effluent in Chicago's water.

Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Adriane Ferreira  
Avenida:Cimabue-nº:531/Penedo- Jardim Martinelli-RJ  
Jardim Martinelli-Penedo-rj, AL 35004

PC#1331

From: Janice Bettencourt <kickboxer153@comcast.net>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 4/13/2012 11:43 AM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Apr 13, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC#1332

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers<sup>TM</sup> of 2011.

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Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Ms. Janice Bettencourt  
132 Davis St  
Rehoboth, MA 02769-1604

From: Shawn Wozniak <swozniak1982@gmail.com>  
To: <therriaj@pcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 4/15/2012 10:17 AM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

Apr 15, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC# 1333

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers<sup>TM</sup> of 2011.

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Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mr. Shawn Wozniak  
1226 G St SE  
Lowr Level  
Washington, DC 20003-2901

From: jeff hopkins <jhop-90@earthlink.net>  
To: <therria@jpcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 5/1/2012 6:49 PM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

May 1, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

Act#1334

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers<sup>TM</sup> of 2011.

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Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mr. jeff hopkins  
69 Amber Ct  
Lindenhurst, IL 60046-7912

Clerk of the Board  
Illinois Pollution Control Board  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 West Randolph Street  
Suite 11-500  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE  
MAY 07 2012  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

PC# 1335

*To whom it may concern:*

I am a student studying Environmental Science in Northeastern Illinois University and would just like to talk about the Chicago River system a bit. The Chicago River was once home to a wide variety of organisms, and this is no longer the case. The reduction of biodiversity is due mostly to habitat loss and the breaking up of large areas of wilderness into small parcels of land. This habitat loss and the fragmentation of land are a result of human population growth, agriculture and urbanization. An additional reason for loss of biodiversity includes invasive species, which invade ecosystems and displace native species. If possible, please find a way to address these issues before its too late. With your help we can restore the Chicago River to once again be home to a wide variety of organisms. Ways to address this problem include preservation of natural areas and restoration of natural areas. This would also include the removal of those pesky invasive species that plague our river system, and the re-planting of native species. I urge you to consider setting stricter policy and protect our already delicate Chicago River. Lets work harder to have cleaner water, and healthier fish.

*Thank You:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of connected loops and a long horizontal stroke, ending in a vertical line that curves back to the right.

From: Ann Sandritter <asndrtr@aol.com>  
To: <therriaj@ipcb.state.il.us>  
Date: 5/8/2012 11:19 AM  
Subject: Protect Chicago River from Dirty Sewage

May 8, 2012

Mr. John Therriault  
100 West Randolph St., Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

PC#1336

Dear Mr. Therriault,

As a supporter of American Rivers, I am writing to ask you to kill the pathogens that are contained in the sewage released into the Chicago River every day.

Directly connected to the toilets of Cook County, more than 70 percent of the water in the river is from MWRD plants, and while it receives basic treatment, pathogens remain from human sewage that can harm the thousands of people who use the river. These microorganisms are of particular concern for some special populations, like kids, who have a higher risk of contracting a waterborne illness and have no way of knowing what is in the water. Due to this pollution concern, American Rivers has named the Chicago River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers™ of 2011.

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Please begin work immediately to implement the changes needed to begin disinfection of the water destined for the Chicago River.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Ms. Ann Sandritter  
3 Ashwood Mall Apt B  
Old Bridge, NJ 08857-4521