



Illinois Public Interest Research Group
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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

November 17, 2000

Re: Public Comment R01-13

Dear Ms. Gunn:

On behalf of the Illinois Public Interest Research Group (Illinois PIRG), I am writing to urge the Illinois Pollution Control Board to adopt strong rules to prevent degradation of Illinois' rivers, lakes and streams.

Illinois PIRG would like to see the following measures included in antidegradation rules:

1. Prevent any new pollution that would harm Illinois waters. New or increased discharges of pollutants should not be allowed where they will harm the biological integrity of the receiving waters.
2. Citizens must be allowed to petition to place high quality waters off limits for increased pollution. Such petitions should not be tied up in a lot of unnecessary red tape and citizens should not be expected to show the economic impacts of the designation.

Illinois should be proud of the progress that has been made since the 1972 passage of the Clean Water Act. However, urban sprawl, hog feeding operations, and other sources of pollution threaten to degrade our waters to the point that they are barely meeting water quality standards or are not meeting standards at all. Now is the time to not only continue working to restore our polluted waters, but also maintain the integrity of our cleaner waters. We look forward to working with you to ensure this happens.

Sincerely,

Diane E. Brown, Executive Director