



Suite 1650
25 East Washington Street
Chicago, Illinois
60602-1703

Tel: 312-427-4256
Fax: 312-427-6251

www.openlands.org

Board of Directors

President
Susan Bell

Treasurer
J. Timothy Ritchie

Secretary
Charles Saltzman

*Vice President
Administration*
Andrew Oting

*Vice President
Development*
Nancy W. Sutherland

*Vice President
Program*
Ellen C. Newcomer

*Vice President
Policy*
Donn F. Bailey, Ph.D.

Past President
Tony Dean

Stephen W. Baird
Paul L. Becker
Shaun C. Block
Richard J. Carlson, Ph.D.
George W. Davis
J. Bradley Davis
Victoria C. Drake
Mary S. Mills Dunea
Philip J. Enquist, AIA
Lynn B. Evans
Joseph M. Flavin
John M. Haight, III
Diane L. Hamburger
Jonathan C. Hamill
Daniel Kearney
Iris J. Krieg
Janis Wellin Notz
George W. Overton
Alexander D. Stuart
Georgiana Taylor
George H. Ware, Ph.D.

Honorary Directors
Marshall Field V
Jack Guth
Brooks McCormick
Louise B. Young

Executive Director
Gerald W. Adelmann

Affiliate
CorLands

Printed on Recycled Paper

RECEIVED
CLERK'S OFFICE

JUN 11 2003

STATE OF ILLINOIS
June 11, 2003
Pollution Control Board

Ms. Marie E. Tipsord
Hearing Officer, Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 W. Randolph St., Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Public Comment on R03-19

PC#6

Dear Ms. Tipsord:

Openlands Project is a 40-year old non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing public open space in northeastern Illinois. Openlands Project is pleased that the Illinois Pollution Control Board is considering the adoption of regulatory changes to strengthen public participation in the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting process. We urge the Board to adopt these proposed changes.

It is very important for citizens to have a fair opportunity to comment on all aspects of a proposed NPDES permit. The Clean Water Act intends NPDES permit conditions and limits to be subject to significant public scrutiny, and the Illinois Environmental Protection Act also envisions widespread public involvement in permit development and issuance.

NPDES permits should not be issued without affording an opportunity for public comment. Moreover, when significant substantive changes are made to a permit after the public comment period is closed, an additional opportunity for public input should be provided on the revised portions. In addition, regulations should ensure the establishment of a sufficient administrative record to justify a permit.

It is also important for our regulations to specify that permit limits may not allow discharges that cause or contribute to violations of water quality standards, that limits and conditions should be enforceable by citizens as well as by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and that monitoring terms should be included in the permits. These revisions will help protect water quality and ensure Illinois' compliance with the Clean Water Act.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Acker

Richard H. Acker
Regional Land Use Coordinator



1963 - 2003