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# City of Braidwood

141 W. Main Street  
Braidwood, Illinois 60408  
(815) 458-2333  
Fax (815) 458-6074



**MAYOR**  
Wayne T. Saltzman

**CITY CLERK**  
Sue Grygiel

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CLERK'S OFFICE

DEC 07 2004

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

Ms. Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 West Randolph Street  
Suite 11-5000  
Chicago, IL 60601

*PC#22*

Re: Docket No. R-04-021  
Revisions to Radium Water Quality Standards

Dear Ms. Gunn:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to the Illinois Pollution Control Board on this important issue to our community.

Sincerely,

David W. Tutterow  
City of Braidwood  
Head Operator  
Water and Wastewater

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## **Suggested comments to the Illinois Pollution Control Board R-04-021 Modifications to the Radium Water Quality Standard**

### **Describe your community and water supply**

The City of Braidwood has a population of 5,203 and is in Northeastern Illinois, south of Joliet. The public water supply is based on 5 deep wells.

### **Describe your compliance requirement**

The City of Braidwood has been in compliance with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency regarding the maximum contaminant level for combined radium 226 and 228 for 10 years. The ion-exchange plant was built in 1994.

### **Describe your wastewater system and discharge**

The City of Braidwood has been pumping from the deep wells for over 100 years. The wastewater plant has been receiving influent containing radium since 1977. In years prior to the construction of the treatment plant, all homes had septic tanks.

The City of Braidwood treatment plant discharges into the Clay Pool drainage ditch on the north side of town.

### **Support for the IEPA Proposal**

Allows continuation of current practice

Radium is already being discharged to streams in Illinois

The discharges have been in place for many years

No increase in the radium will result from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency proposal

The issue of land application of sludge containing radium is not the subject of this rulemaking and should be addressed elsewhere

Information provided by the City of Joliet demonstrates that the land application of sludge poses no risk to future residents on the land

The safety of workers at the wastewater treatment plants is adequately protected by existing facilities and our employees are not at risk as a result of radium in the influent or sludge

### **Support a Numerical Standard**

Although the IEPA has proposed a water quality without a numerical standard, a numerical standard should be established. The IEPA proposal has been mischaracterized as encouraging more radium pollution and this perception will be eliminated with the implementation of a numerical standard.

Measurable limits will respond to the concerns of those residents of the state that additional pollution will result from the approval of the IEPA proposal.

### **Discuss impact on Fish and Wildlife**

No discharger in Illinois has reported noticeable impact on fish or wildlife from radium discharged from wastewater treatment plants.

### **Support local decision making**

Water supplies and wastewater treatment plants should be allowed to make their own decisions concerning the appropriate method of compliance for their community. Standards should be established based on science and treatment methods selected by communities.

### **Support wise use of public funds**

The establishment of water quality standards that eliminate existing discharges will result in the increased costs to communities and their residents without additional impact to the environment.