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December 6, 2004

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

Dorothy Gunn, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
James Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601

RE: R04-021

Dear Ms. Gunn:

Please accept these comments from Illinois Farm Bureau regarding the proposed Revisions to Radium Water Quality Standards that would increase the allowable amount of radium from one picocurie per liter to five picocuries per liter.

Illinois Farm Bureau is a voluntary, grassroots organization whose members include about three-fourths of the farmers in the state of Illinois. We believe that decisions on government policies and standards should be based on sound scientific research. We rely on the scientific community for good, unbiased research to provide the answers to environmental questions so that policies are not based on unfounded beliefs.

Illinois Farm Bureau is not a scientifically-based organization with the technical expertise to determine whether the proposed radium standard is safe or not. We leave that to the Illinois Pollution Control Board and others to ask what a safe level for radium in water should be and then to delineate the risk involved in increasing the standard to five picocuries per liter.

The outcome of this issue must be based on scientific reality. The explanation of the rule change should address concerns over safety that are logically raised when anyone discusses radiation and possible effects on health and property values.

The proposal is very complex and we commend the Pollution Control Board for their diligence in analyzing the issue.

Sincerely,

Nancy Erickson

Nancy Erickson, Director
Natural and Environmental Resources



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