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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

**SOUTHWEST OIL, INC.**  
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April 7, 1999

Illinois Pollution Control Board  
100 West Randolph  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

RE: **Docket R98-29; Docket R98-18**  
**Used Oil Regulations**

*R98-18*  
*J.C.#5*

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing to provide Southwest Oil's comments on any proposed regulatory changes pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 807 or 739, that may affect oil recyclers operating in the State of Illinois. Our company's principal concerns are twofold:

1. Used oil recyclers should not be subject to any regulatory or permit requirements that are more stringent than the federal requirements set forth in 40 CFR Part 279. It is our understanding that Part 739 requires that Illinois' used oil regulations must be "identical in substance" to the federal requirements. This makes excellent sense because the federal used oil management standards work well, is enforceable, and encourages legitimate methods of used oil recycling. As you know, the vast majority of states have opted Part 279 with very minor changes or none at all.
2. It is imperative that Illinois regulations not place burden on Illinois based transporters and recyclers than their out of state competitors. Specifically, if a recycler in another state is allowed to pick up used oil in Illinois without a manifest or special permit conditions and restrictions, it is unfair to impose those requirements on a recycler operating out of a facility in Illinois. Also, many transporters and recyclers in Illinois use commercial leased storage for oil transfer facilities or EPA on-specification oil storage. Those types of facilities will not subject themselves to permitting requirements. Where will Illinois transporters and recyclers store their oil then? Because those requirements impose significant paperwork and cost burdens, the out-of-state recycler enjoys a major competitive advantage. What useful purpose could be served by this kind of discrimination? In addition, it is also imperative that Illinois burners of EPA on specification fuel NOT be required to obtain permitting or they will simply switch back to virgin fuel. Where will the oil going to these burners go for recycling if they are not willing to burn it? This would become an alarming issue for Illinois, since this is a good portion of all the oil in the state.

There are other important issues concerning the requirements affecting the oil recyclers in Illinois. These are addresses in a letter to the Board by the General Counsel of the national Oil Recyclers Association ("NORA"). Southwest Oil fully endorses NORA's comments.

If you need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Victoria M. Custer  
Vice President

VMC/km