



CITIZENS

AGAINST

RUINING the

ENVIRONMENT

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P.O. Box 536

Lockport, IL 60471
STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

March 23, 2005

The Honorable J. Phillip Novak
Chairman, Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 W. Randolph, Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

PCH#38

Re: Revisions to Radium Water Quality Standards: Proposed New 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.307 and amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.207 and 302.525
R04-021 Rulemaking - Water

Dear Chairman Novak:

Citizens Against Ruining the Environment (C.A.R.E.) has been closely following IEPA's proposal before the pollution control board to abolish the radium water quality standards. I commend your board for conducting a thorough airing of this issue giving environmental groups the opportunity to weigh in.

Throughout the hearings there was extensive information presented that revealed that IEPA's proposal would carry significant consequences to the wildlife, environment and most importantly, the public health. Also evident in the testimony is that the IEPA clearly has not done the research on the implications of this rule change. Moreover, the agency has yet to give a compelling argument for significantly weakening the water quality standards.

As I understand it, your board is poised to make a decision on this issue in the upcoming weeks. I urge your board to deny IEPA's proposal as it would significantly undermine Illinois' sound environmental policy. I encourage your board to demand that the IEPA explore cleaner alternatives to this problem before allowing the unnecessary pollution of radioactive wastes into our environment.

Radium disposal demands an environmentally-friendly approach that will address both short-term problems and long-term concerns. Future generations should not have to pay for our mistakes. Please protect the health and safety of the residents of Illinois and preserve our environment for generations to come.

Thank you,

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