



CITIZENS
AGAINST
RUINING the
ENVIRONMENT

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MAY 02 2005

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

April 28, 2005

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

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 (CARE) appreciates the opportunity to provide further comments regarding the pollution control board's decision to weaken the radium water quality standards.

The decision to increase radioactive contaminants into the environment is unwarranted and compromises sound environmental policy and the public's health and safety. Moreover, this weakening of standards sets a dangerous precedent, paving the way for polluters and potentially creating future Superfund sites.

The thorium issue in West Chicago is a prime example of what can happen when toxic contaminants are discharged into the environment. The contamination stems from a former manufacturing site that produced other radioactive contaminants including radium. In one of the largest environmental cleanups in Illinois history, more than \$500 million will be spent in clean up costs, half of which will be paid for by the federal government. The cleanup will involve digging up and drying contaminated sediments and shipping to a federally licensed disposal site.

CARE is pleased local, state and federal officials have worked in cooperation to provide a clean, environmentally-friendly and safe solution to the thorium situation. The radium disposal issue demands the same coordinated, thoughtful and sound approach. We have the unique opportunity to prevent an environmental man-made disaster and save millions of dollars in future remediation costs.

In closing, CARE respectfully requests the Board to uphold the current water quality standards and prevent further toxic contamination in Illinois.

Thank you,

Directors

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cc: Board Member G. Tanner Girard
Board Member Thomas Johnson
Board Member Nicholas Melas
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