

Electronic Filing, Received, Clerk's Office, August 24, 2007

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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3	IN THE MATTER OF:)	
4)	
5	PROPOSED EXTENSION OF ADJUSTED STANDARD)	AS 2007-2
6	APPLICABLE TO ILLINOIS-AMERICAN)	(Adjusted Standard)
7	WATER COMPANY'S ALTON PUBLIC WATER)	
8	SUPPLY FACILITY DISCHARGE)	
9	TO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER)	
10	UNDER 35 ILL. ADM. CODE 304.124 AND 304.106)	
11			
12			

TESTIMONY OF JAMES E. SCHREMPF

WITNESS IDENTIFICATION AND BACKGROUND

Q. Please state your name and address.

A. My name is James E. Schrempf. I live at 1500 Woodcliffe in Alton, Illinois 62002.

Q. Where is your house in relationship to Illinois-American Water Company's water treatment plant?

A. My house is adjacent to the Alton plant. I built my home approximately 19 years ago. One of my neighbors built his home approximately 15 years ago. We both look out from our property to a scenic view of the Mississippi River, directly over the existing Alton plant. In fact, the area between our houses and the plant's buildings is an area that would be used for construction of dewatering residual lagoons. So, my property and those of about eight to ten other neighbors, will be directly affected, adversely, if lagoons are built in our back yards.

PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

A. The purpose of my testimony is to: (1) explain why I believe the Adjusted Standard should be extended beyond its 2007 sunset; (2) discuss the disturbance to myself, my neighbors and the natural habitat near our houses that will be caused by increased truck traffic and the

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30 construction of lagoons in the event the Adjusted Standard is not extended; and (3) explain the
31 disturbance that will be caused to Piasa Park if the Adjusted Standard is not extended.

32 **THE ADJUSTED STANDARD SHOULD BE EXTENDED BECAUSE THE GOALS BEHIND**
33 **THE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD'S 2000 DECISION HAVE BEEN ATTAINED**

34 **Q. Have you read the decisions rendered by the Illinois Pollution Control Board on**
35 **September 7 and October 19, 2000?**

36 A. Yes, I have.

37 **Q. What conclusions, if any, have you drawn from those orders?**

38 A. The first conclusion was that a great deal of thought went into the formation of both orders. I
39 am an attorney in private practice in the city of Alton. In fact, I serve as the attorney for the
40 City of Alton and the Village of Godfrey. Although I have been in private practice for a
41 number of years, I am not accustomed to reading the orders of the Illinois Pollution Control
42 Board. But I was impressed by the detail analysis of the facts in the Board's decisions. The
43 final decision appears to be well reasoned and in the best interests of everyone.

44 It is clear to me that the Pollution Control Board decided that the Adjusted Standard should
45 expire in October, 2007. But it also appears clear to me that the Pollution Control Board and
46 all of the other parties—the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois-American
47 Water Company—intended that the Adjusted Standard would continue to be accepted if the
48 goal behind the adoption of the Standard was met. As I read the Board's decisions, the goal
49 was to achieve a sediment reduction flowing into the Mississippi River of 2 to 1. That is, the
50 reduced sediment achieved by the efforts of the Great Rivers Land Trust should have reduced
51 sediment from Piasa Creek going into the Mississippi River by twice the amount of sediment
52 being discharged from the Alton water treatment facility. From what I have read in the filings

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53 in the present case, the Great Rivers Land Trust and Illinois-American Water Company have
54 already exceeded the ten year goal of 2 to 1.

55 I find it incredible and against logic that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency now
56 takes the position that the Adjusted Standard should no longer be applicable for the Alton
57 plant and that all of the good work previously done shall not be accepted as a final resolution
58 of the issue presented. This is especially puzzling to me since I have been informed that
59 Illinois-American Water Company is willing to maintain the sediment reduction projects in
60 the Piasa Creek Watershed.

61 The offset project which sprung out of this Adjusted Standard has worked beautifully. Such
62 plans should be encouraged and not discouraged by the state of Illinois.

TRUCK TRAFFIC AND LAGOONS ARE BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND BAD FOR 64 OUR COMMUNITY

65 **Q. As a neighbor of Illinois-American Water Company's Alton plant, do you travel along**
66 **the scenic highway that runs between the plant and the river?**

67 A. Sure I do. I drive along that road on a regular basis.

68 **Q. What impact, if any, do you believe the added truck traffic would have on the scenic**
69 **highway in the event residuals had to be hauled from lagoons at the water treatment**
70 **plant?**

71 A. The impact would be significant, in my opinion. According to pleadings filed by Illinois-
72 American Water Company in the original case in 2000, and filed more recently in 2007, there
73 could be anywhere from 2 truckloads to 17 truckloads traveling on the scenic roadway each
74 day. From what I have read, this evidence is not contradicted by Illinois EPA.

75 The Great River Road has recently been named one of the "Seven Wonders of Illinois" by the
76 Illinois Bureau of Tourism. For decades, our community has been very proud of this road.

77 Our pride goes well beyond transportation. It is a beautiful area. No one would want to
78 encourage heavy truck traffic along a road with such beauty. But there would be no way
79 around it. The Great River Road is the only point of access from the water treatment plant to

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80 or from local landfills. Truck traffic into and out of the water plant has been minimal since
81 the new facility was built seven years ago. With the lagoon system, that truck traffic would
82 increase substantially, and it would present a real detriment to the Great River Road. In
83 addition, that truck traffic would also have to pass over a well-established and heavily used
84 bike trail that runs parallel to the northern edge of the Great River Road. The bike trail is
85 between the road and the Alton water treatment facility. So, heavy trucks would have to drive
86 over that bike path going into the facility and coming out of the facility.

87 **Q. What impact, if any, do you believe the truck traffic would have on the area between the**
88 **plant and your house?**

89 A. When Illinois-American Water Company built its new plant, it entered into an agreement with
90 myself and some of my other neighbors. According to that agreement, the water company
91 was to grade, seed and maintain the acreage to the north of its buildings. This is the acreage
92 which otherwise would be used for lagoons and truck loading. The water company has
93 fulfilled its obligations under the contract. The area is now a beautiful, tranquil area filled
94 with native prairie grasses. My neighbors and I have grown to enjoy and appreciate this area.
95 But I also want to point out that numerous bird species and other animals have made the area
96 their home and their hunting grounds. Without question, the construction of lagoons and
97 roadways for the heavy equipment and trucks would destroy this natural habitat and create
98 unwelcome noise pollution.

99 **PIASA PARK**

100 **Q. I believe there is a park near the Alton plant, Piasa Park. Please describe Piasa Park for**
101 **the Board.**

102 A. Piasa Park is a new park along the Great River. With assistance from state and federal
103 funding sources, the City of Alton established this park after the Adjusted Standard was issued

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104 by the Pollution Control Board. One of the dominant features of the park is a new Piasa Bird
105 painted on the face of the limestone bluff. The painting was done by a cooperative effort of
106 volunteers from throughout the community. Alton residents are very proud of this new park.
107 It includes a parking area which is utilized by people not only enjoying the park, but bringing
108 their bikes to the bike trail.

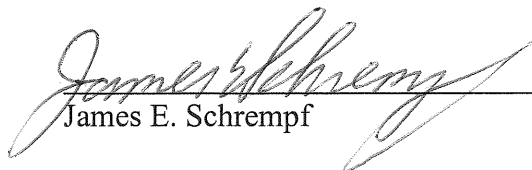
109 **Q. What impact would there be to the park, if any, if the Adjusted Standard was not**
110 **extended?**

111 A. If the Adjusted Standard is not extended and treatment lagoons are built at the water treatment
112 plant, there will be an impact from truck traffic. Heavy trucks, hauling tons of soil, will enter
113 and exit through the Piasa Park and its parking facilities. The trucks will have to drive over
114 the bike path, too. This would substantially interfere with the ambiance, safety and use of the
115 new City park.

116 **Q. Do you have anything further to say to the Illinois Pollution Control Board, Mr.**
117 **Schrempf?**

118 A. Yes. I beseech the Board to extend the Adjusted Standard or make it permanent. I do not
119 understand why the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency would fully and
120 enthusiastically support the Piasa Creek Watershed Project for offset trading in 2000, then
121 oppose the offset project seven years later after it has become successful. But I know my
122 personal beliefs and those of my neighbors and city officials in Alton and Godfrey—we
123 support a continuation of the offset project, and we oppose lagoons and the truck traffic that
124 would be incidental to the landfilling of the residual waste. I do not know anyone in our
125 community who supports a termination of the Adjusted Standard. Therefore, I ask that the
126 Board extend the Adjusted Standard and allow this valuable offset project to continue.

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128


James E. Schrepf

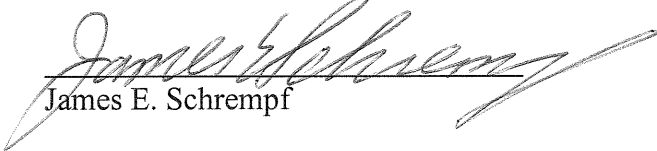
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF MADISON)

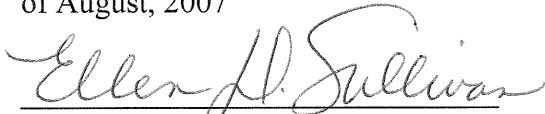
AFFIDAVIT

I, James E. Schrepf, after being duly sworn on oath, state that the foregoing Testimony is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.


James E. Schrepf

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to
before me this 21st day
of August, 2007


NOTARY PUBLIC

