



City of Chicago  
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Environment

Suzanne Malec-McKenna  
Commissioner

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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

*PCH10*

Marie E. Tipsord, Hearing Officer  
Illinois Pollution Control Board  
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

Re: Comment on Rule Making R2008-009

Dear Ms. Tipsord,

The City of Chicago offers the following comments in support of the Illinois EPA's proposal for new water quality standards for the Chicago Area Waterways.

The City of Chicago is working hard to protect and develop the Chicago Area Waterways as a world class river system. The new standards proposed by Illinois EPA will further our progress in reclaiming the river system as a great natural and recreational resource for Chicago residents and visitors.

Working with other stakeholders, we have already made great improvements to water quality, wildlife habitat and recreational access to the waterway. MWRDGC's Tunnel and Reservoir Project has had a tremendous positive impact on water quality. As a complement to this system, the City of Chicago is aggressively implementing green infrastructure for stormwater management. This approach helps the waterways by effectively adding capacity to the sewer system. These improvements in water quality have allowed the City of Chicago to respond to increasing public demand for recreational access to the waterways. We have built over 14 miles of riverfront trails, 5 public canoe launches, and fishing stations at 2 parks. We have also completed bank restoration work at parks, schools and other public property along the river.

We are committed to continued improvement of the river system for water quality, wildlife habitat and recreation. Working with the Chicago Park District, we will continue to improve public access and restore wildlife habitat on public land along the river, and encourage the private sector to do the same. We will continue working toward our goal of a continuous trail system along the Chicago River. This year, the Chicago Department of Transportation will begin construction of a new Riverwalk that will create a continuous river-level promenade along the Main Branch.

We commend the Illinois EPA, MWRDGC and the other stakeholders who participated in the Use Attainability Analysis for their work to improve our waterways.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Malec-McKenna  
Commissioner

