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## ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

| IN THE MATTER OF:                                     | )     |  |
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|   | )     |  |
| WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AND                           | )     | R08-09                                       |
| EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS FOR THE                          | )     | (Rulemaking-<br>Water) <b>CLERK'S OFFICE</b> |
| CHICAGO AREA WATERWAY SYSTEM                          | )     | Water) CLERKS OFFICE                         |
| AND THE LOWER DES PLAINES                             | )     |  |
| RIVER: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS                            | )     | NUV 2 3 2009                                 |
| TO 35 Ill. Adm. Code Parts                            | )     | STATE OF HIMOID                              |
| 301, 302, 303 and 304                                 | )     | Pollution Control Boar                       |
| RIVER: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 35 Ill. Adm. Code Parts | ) ) ) | NOV 2 3 2009<br>STATE OF ILLINO              |

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS held in the above-entitled cause before Hearing Officer Marie Tipsord, called by the Illinois Pollution Control Board, taken before Laura Mukahirn, CSR, a notary public within and for the County of Cook and State of Illinois, at 160 North LaSalle Street, Room N-502, Chicago, Illinois, on the 9th day of November, 2009, commencing at the hour of 12:30 p.m.

|    | Page 2  |
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| 1  | APPEARANCES   |
| 2  | MS. MARIE TIPSORD, Hearing Officer MR. GIRARD TANNER, Chairman                      |
| 3  | MR. THOMAS JOHNSON, Member MR. ANAND RAO, Member                                    |
| 4  | MS. ALISA LIU, Member MS. ANDREA MOORE, Member                                      |
| 5  | DR. SHUNDAR LIN, Member Appearing on behalf of the Illinois Pollution Control Board |
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| 8  | P.O. Box 19276<br>Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276                                  |
| 9  | (217)782-5544<br>BY: MS. DEBORAH WILLIAMS   |
| 10 | MS. STEPHANIE DIERS<br>MR. ROBERT SULSKI  |
| 11 | MR. SCOTT TWAIT<br>MR. HOWARD ESSIG   |
| 12 | MR. ROY SMOGOR  |
| 13 | FRANZETTI LAW FIRM  10 South LaSalle Street   |
| 15 | Suite 3600<br>Chicago, Illinois 60603   |
| 16 | (312)251-5590 BY: MS. SUSAN FRANZETTI Appearing on behalf of Midwest Generation     |
| 17 | Appearing on Denair of Midwese denciation   |
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|    | Page 1   |
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| 1  | HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: It's 12:44.               |
| 2  | Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome back.            |
| 3  | We're ready to start the afternoon with the        |
| 4  | testimony of Greg Seegert; is that correct?        |
| 5  | MR. SEEGERT: Seegert.                              |
| 6  | MS. FRANZETTI: Can we also have                    |
| 7  | Mr. VonDruska sworn. He may not wind up            |
| 8  | adding anything, but in the event he does,         |
| 9  | this way he's already sworn in.                    |
| 10 | (Witnesses sworn.)                                 |
| 11 | HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Thank you.                |
| 12 | And with that, we'll mark the prefiled             |
| 13 | testimony of Greg Seegert. If there's no           |
| 14 | objection, we'll mark prefiled testimony as        |
| 15 | Exhibit 366.                                       |
| 16 | Seeing none, it's Exhibit 366.                     |
| 17 | And I believe we'll start with the IEPA.           |
| 18 | Examination  |
| 19 | By Ms. Diers                                       |
| 20 | Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Seegert. My name            |
| 21 | is Stephanie Diers, and I will be asking questions |
| 22 | on behalf of Illinois EPA. And I'm going to begin  |
| 23 | with our prefiled question 1. Please explain your  |
| 24 | experience with the waters that are part of the    |

- 1 Illinois EPA's proposal.
- MS. FRANZETTI: And you did mean to
- include extensive experience?
- 4 MS. DIERS: Yes. Sorry.
- 5 MR. ETTINGER: But not with
- 6 Commonwealth Edison.

24

7 I've been studying the MR. SEEGERT: 8 Dresden, Brandon, and Lockport pools almost annually since I came to EA, which was in 10 early 1982. I also studied the south branch 11 of the Chicago River near the Mid General 12 Fisk Station, and although I've been involved 13 with those studies for 27 years, my role has 14 changed over time. When I first came I was 15 younger and stronger and I used to go out and 16 do field work fairly regularly. And so as 17 part of that I was involved directly in the 18 fish collections, the electrofishing, the 19 seining, the gillnetting, all the things that 20 field biologists do. Then when I became 21 project manager, which was about 1985, at 22 that point I didn't go out in the field 23 nearly as much, but I was still involved in

preparing the final reports and overseeing

all of the data collection and analyzing the data. Then my associate, Mr. Vondruska, became project manager in 1990. And after that point I functioned in what EA calls the senior reviewer, which means I sort of watch over the project manager's shoulder. that capacity I reviewed the final report and verified that all the data presented therein was accurately provided. And then during the mid 1990s I, again, went out in the field, but this time in an audit function. And so I got to see, again, all of our adult fish collecting, our larval work which we did in the mid '90s, and the habitat evaluation.

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Another study which is relevant but was not done for Midwest Generation, but was done for a different client was in conjunction with an application for an adjusted temperature standard. I studied habitat in the Calumet River and the Little Calumet River in the early '90s, and then as part of that same study, EA prepared a thermal model for that section of the river. And besides my direct involvement at

1 the five Midwest Generation plants, I kept 2 abreast of what's been going on in the CAWS 3 and the Lower Des Plaines in several ways: 4 First of all, I regularly attended the 5 Illinois American Fisheries Society meetings 6 where I often presented papers on the studies 7 that we were doing in the subject waterways. 8 I've also, pretty much on an annual basis, 9 attended the EPA-sponsored surface water 10 monitoring and standards meeting, the acronym 11 for that is SWiMS where other researchers 12 give presentations. I know Dr. Dennison with 13 the district a number of years ago gave a 14 paper on the District's work in that area. 15 So I've been keeping abreast of what the 16 district has been doing. We heard earlier 17 testimony from Ms. Wozniak about the 18 biological advisory group that was formed for 19 the Lower Des Plaines. I was an active 20 member of that work group, and we had many 21 meetings to discuss the various topics. 22 reviewed the literature pertaining to these 23 and other Illinois rivers and reviewed 24 numerous habitat evaluation techniques, not

just the one we've heard about here, the QHEI, but others.

3 And then, lastly, in my role, one of the other hats I wear is chief 5 ichthyologist for EA. So that means I end up 6 looking at fish specimens that our crew 7 brings back to the lab. And basically if they get stumped, they give it to me and 8 9 basically say, Seegert, what is this fish? 10 And that's what I try do is identify those 11 fish. Thus, I'm very familiar with the 12 species composition throughout the area, and 13 actually one of the outcomes then of this was 14 we rediscovered a species called the greater 15 redhorse, which had not been collected in 16 over a hundred years in Illinois. And as a 17 result, our studies ended up going on the 18 Illinois endangered species list. And then 19 I've also studied the areas that basically 20 flank this area. So I've worked in the Fox 21 River, the Kankakee River, and the Rock 22 And in those systems I've done 23 studies specifically for the State of 24 Illinois looking for threatened and

- endangered species; some of those are western
- sand darter, the pallid shiner, greater
- 3 redhorse, and Ozark minnow. And then,
- lastly, you'll hear more about the intensive
- 5 habitat work that we did last year in the
- 6 Upper Des Plaines Pool.
- 7 BY MS. DIERS:
- 8 Q. And did you say EA prepared a thermal
- 9 model for the Calumet River?
- 10 A. For a portion of it, yes.
- 11 Q. And who was that study prepared for?
- 12 A. That was done for Acme Steel.
- Q. Prefiled Question 2: Please explain
- 14 how you're defining the CAWS waters and the Lower
- 15 Des Plaines?
- A. Well, short answer is I'm defining it
- 17 the same way you are.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Meaning in the
- proposed regulations that they filed in this
- 20 rulemaking?
- MR. SEEGERT: That is correct,
- Counselor.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Said with such
- 24 disdain.

- 1 BY MS. DIERS:
- 2 Q. Three, how long has EA been employed
- 3 by Midwest Generation?
- 4 A. EA has worked for Mid Gen since
- 5 shortly after it purchased the electric generating
- 6 stations from Com Ed, which I believe was in late
- 7 1999. So basically ten years.
- 8 Q. And did EA work for Com Ed before
- 9 that?
- 10 A. Yes, we did.
- 11 Q. When were you hired by Midwest
- 12 Generation to specifically review Illinois EPA'S
- regulatory proposal?
- 14 A. We were hired shortly after the
- regulatory proposal was filed, which was October of
- 16 2007.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: It seems
- like only yesterday.
- 19 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. Prefiled Question 5: What do you mean
- when you say that you have been engaged by Midwest
- 22 Generation to review and analyze information and
- 23 data to assess the use designation issues relating
- to aquatic life goals for the CAWS and Lower Des

- 1 Plaines? And I think this is with respect to Page 1
- of your prefiled testimony.
- A. Yes. Midwest Generation asked EA to
- 4 review and analyze relevant information and data to
- 5 assess whether or not one or more of the UAA factors
- 6 was satisfied, and what would be appropriate aquatic
- 7 life use designations for the subject waterways.
- 8 Q. Prefiled Question 6. This is with
- 9 respect to Page 2 of your prefiled testimony.
- In your opinion, how has the
- 11 Illinois EPA failed to adequately consider and
- 12 assess the unique aspects of the Chicago Sanitary
- and Ship Canal and Upper Dresden Island Pool in
- 14 determining whether these water bodies are capable
- of obtaining Clean Water Act Aquatic Life Goals?
- A. First of all, I think Illinois EPA
- 17 failed to adequately assess habitat in the area.
- 18 They failed to adequately affect -- adequately
- 19 assess the effect of the barge traffic. They also
- 20 failed to adequately consider the effects of flow
- 21 and water level fluctuations. They failed to
- 22 account for the highly significant effects that dams
- have on this system. They did not appear to take --
- or make use of the large biological data set that EA

- 1 has collected over the years. They also, on the
- other hand, they relied, I think, far too much on
- 3 what I consider to be a poorly designed and executed
- 4 biological and habitat survey for much of the data.
- 5 So basically they ignored a much larger and better
- 6 data set and used a smaller and not as good a data
- 7 set. They also failed to properly consider the
- 8 effects of sedimentation, both sediment just as
- 9 sediment, but also sediment in terms of being
- 10 contaminated sediment. They've also failed to
- 11 realistically account for the magnitude or the cost
- 12 associated with remediation and restoration within
- the system. And they, themselves, did not collect
- 14 any new data.
- MR. ETTINGER: I'm sorry. In your
- answer you refer to this system. I just want
- to make sure what this system is. Are you
- 18 talking about the Lower Des Plaines or --
- MR. SEEGERT: I'm talking, in this
- case, about the Lower Des Plaines and the
- 21 CAWS.
- MR. ETTINGER: Okay. So your answer
- would apply to all of that area?
- MR. SEEGERT: Yes. Some parts more

functionally it's the same system as the ship
canal and then the Lower Des Plaines River.

So those are the areas that I'm talking

about.

- 21 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. Where does Brandon Pool fit in the
- areas that you're talking about?
- A. Well, according to the rulemaking,

- there's actually two parts of that. There's Brandon
- 2 Pool upstream where the Upper Des Plaines comes in,
- and that's part of the CAWS. And then there's the
- 4 section, which I believe is four miles long, which
- 5 goes from where the Upper Des Plaines comes in and
- 6 goes as far as Brandon Road Lock and Dam. I
- 7 understand that it's been divided that way for
- 8 regulatory purposes. In the fish's perspective, it
- 9 isn't really any different where the fish is in the
- 10 Brandon Pool.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, did you want
- him to tell you whether his answer to your
- question says -- included that he would apply
- all of those items that he testified about
- with respect to your Question 6. Is he
- including Brandon Pool in that answer? Was
- that what you wanted to know as part of your
- 18 follow-up question?
- MS. DIERS: I think what we're trying
- to understand is if it's part of the Chicago
- Sanitary and Ship Canal or the Upper Dresden
- 22 Island Pool.
- MS. FRANZETTI: When he uses those two
- terms, is it dropping through the cracks or

|      | raye 14                                      |
|------|--|
| 1    | is it in one of them? Can you clarify, Greg? |
| 2    | MR. SEEGERT: Could you repeat the            |
| 3    | question, please.                            |
| 4    | MS. FRANZETTI: Do you mind if I jump         |
| 5    | in? You're trying to get clarity there. You  |
| 6    | tend to use two terms: Chicago Sanitary and  |
| 7    | Ship Canal and the ship canal. And then you  |
| 8    | refer to either Lower Des Plaines, or        |
| 9    | sometimes I think you say you use the        |
| 10   | regulatory term Upper Dresden Island Pool.   |
| 11   | Their question is Brandon Pool in one of     |
| 12   | those categories or are you leaving it out?  |
| 13   | MR. SEEGERT: It's in both of those           |
| 14   | categories.                                  |
| 15   | MS. FRANZETTI: Okay.                         |
| 16   | MR. SEEGERT: Part of Brandon Pool is         |
| 17   | in the ship canal and part of it is in the   |
| 18   | Lower Des Plaines.                           |
| 19   | MS. FRANZETTI: Based on what's been          |
| 20   | proposed in this rule?                       |
| 21   | MR. SEEGERT: What's been proposed.           |
| 22   | MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, does that do         |
| 23 / | it?  |
| 24   | MR. ETTINGER: I have a clarifying            |

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MR. SEEGERT: What would stop a fish from moving, we're not now talking about a physical barrier, but we're talking about differences in what fish prefer. So because of the Brandon Pool being part of a larger water body, you tend to get fish that like larger water bodies. Some fish like certain water bodies, and then there are going to be other fish that are basically going to prefer

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the Upper Des Plaines which is a smaller
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- water body, sort of like the distinction
- 3 between some people like to live in big
- 4 cities, some people like to live in small
- 5 towns. There's nothing physically preventing
- them from moving from one place to another,
- but they tend to like one area over the
- 8 other.
- 9 MR. ETTINGER: What if a fish had a
- job in the lower just north of the damn, it
- might have to commute.
- MR. SEEGERT: I'm not aware of any
- fish that have jobs.
- MR. ETTINGER: Thank you.
- 15 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. Mr. Seegert, in the line of questions
- I was asking you before where you thought Illinois
- 18 EPA failed, and you talked about some of the habitat
- data. Could you be more specific about what data
- was available but ignored by Illinois EPA?
- 21 A. I don't think I said it was -- I
- 22 didn't say ignored by Illinois EPA. Based on my
- reading of everything that was provided, it looked
- to me like you relied primarily on the data, the

- 1 habitat data that was collected by Mr. Yoder's
- group, MBI, for your final decision making. And I
- 3 know there was an exhibit that was prepared by
- 4 Mr. Essig who did plot QHEIs and did include data
- from EA engineering. But I don't think that's what
- 6 you primarily relied on for your decision making
- 7 process.
- MR. ETTINGER: I'm sorry. I want to
- follow up. I'm going to jump a little bit.
- But getting back to the fish in little waters
- and big waters, are there some fish that for
- some stages of their life prefer smaller
- streams and for other stages prefer larger
- 14 waters?
- MR. SEEGERT: There would be or could
- be a few species of fish which might utilize
- a smaller stream for part of their life
- cycle, but it would be a fairly -- or not --
- it would be a very small subset of fishes.
- We really don't -- the kind of fishes you're
- talking about would be species that are
- highly migratory, and we really don't have
- any representation by those kinds of fish in
- this system.

- 1 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. Question 7: What would you have done
- 3 differently from the agency when looking at the
- 4 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and the Upper
- 5 Dresden Island Pool? And then the second question
- 6 was is this reflected in the report attached to your
- 7 prefiled testimony marked as Exhibit 2?
- A. Okay. Well, let me answer your second
- 9 question first. And, yes, all of the differences
- 10 that I'm going to be listing are included in the
- various report that we've provided. In terms of
- 12 what we would do differently, we look much more
- 13 closely at habitat. So basically getting a better
- level of spatial resolution. We heard a number of
- witnesses, I believe associated with the District,
- who had testified to the fact that one of the
- shortcomings of Mr. Yoder's approach was that there
- wasn't enough of it; that they -- sometimes there
- was a 10 or 15 mile gap in between the various
- stations. So we would have looked more closely at
- the habitat and got much better spatial resolution.
- We also researched the effect of barges to see what
- effect they might have on the system, and we
- considered how not only high, but low flow

- 1 conditions in the system and water level
- 2 fluctuations. We had two different things: We've
- got flow, we've got velocity of water, we've also
- 4 got water going up and down. So we looked closely
- 5 at that. I had mentioned that it didn't look that
- 6 extensively at the effects of impounding. So we
- 7 went to the literature, and, for example, and looked
- 8 at the extensive study that was done on the nearby
- 9 Fox River, because I think those results are very
- 10 relevant here. So we look more closely at what the
- 11 effects of impoundment are. We also studied the
- 12 area, and now I'm talking about the fish work, not
- just the habitat work, at a much finer final level
- of resolution so we get much more fish sampling.
- 15 The studies that I think the State relied on in
- 16 Upper Dresden Island Pool, they made six
- 17 collections, and for the whole area combined it was
- on the order of about 20 or 30. We have data over
- the years for over 3,000 collections. So you're
- 20 talking literally a two order magnitude difference
- 21 between the level of effort the database we had
- 22 available and utilized versus what the State was
- looking at. Also I believe that the studies we've
- done over the years have been, on average, better

- 1 performed and better designed. And when we looked
- 2 at the studies done by MBI, they had a number of, I
- guess I called them, methodological problems,
- 4 various errors that came up. And it didn't appear
- 5 that they provided the appropriate oversight. They
- 6 had prepared a document called QAPP, the Quality
- 7 Assurance Procedures Plan. But based on my
- 8 recollection of Mr. Yoder's testimony, there are
- 9 quite a few times when questions of well, this is
- what you said in your plan. Did you do this? Well,
- they don't it. And one of the consequences then of
- 12 not doing those things was that -- what I call bad
- data, inaccurate data got into the database because
- they didn't do the proper job of oversight.
- Also, I mentioned sediment issue.
- 16 So with regard to at least contaminated sediment, EA
- went out and collected sediment from a number of
- 18 locations. The interpretation of those data are
- 19 being handled by Dr. Burton who I believe will be
- the next witness to testify. Also, I think we
- 21 realistically accounted for the magnitude and the
- 22 cost for any restoration and remediation. We've had
- 23 a number of people testify -- in fact, well, you can
- 24 put in some more structure, you can do this, you can

- do that. Well, you can do those things, but to do
- it in a meaningful manner where you're actually
- going to make a difference in the biological
- 4 community, you have to do a lot of it. When you do
- 5 a lot of something, it costs a lot of money. And
- 6 there aren't any plans for this level of remediation
- or restoration that we're not aware of. And, as I
- 8 said, we've collected data on the fish, on the
- 9 habitat, sediment quality. Another --
- MR. ETTINGER: Excuse me. I hate to
- interrupt, but is this remediation study part
- of your testimony somewhere? Is it in the
- exhibit?
- MR. SEEGERT: I'm not going to testify
- with regard to remediation, no.
- MR. ETTINGER: But you just did.
- MR. SEEGERT: Well --
- MS. FRANZETTI: He wants you to
- explain further what you're referring to on
- remediation and restoration systems.
- MR. SEEGERT: Right. I quess in this
- case, the way I was using it was in a limited
- sense. Remediation would be -- the example
- I'm thinking of would be removal of the

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| 1  | contaminated sediment. So that's not          |
| 2  | restoration. That's, in my mind,              |
| 3  | remediation.                                  |
| 4  | MR. ETTINGER: I'm sorry. I thought            |
| 5  | you were taking about habitat structures, and |
| 6  | I didn't see any study of the cost of         |
| 7  | including habitat structures. But you aren't  |
| 8  | referring to that when you were testifying?   |
| 9  | MR. SEEGERT: Well, I'm saying that if         |
| 10 | you needed to do restoration in a system like |
| 11 | this, the cost would, and I don't have an     |
| 12 | exact amount, but I know what restoration     |
| 13 | costs in other systems of roughly similar     |
| 14 | magnitude. And so I'm estimating that in      |
| 15 | this case for even for Upper Dresden          |
| 16 | Island Pool, which is only eight miles long,  |
| 17 | you're probably talking about tens or         |
| 18 | hundreds of millions of dollars.              |
| 19 | MR. ETTINGER: I thought you were              |
| 20 | talking real money. Let's go on. I won't      |
| 21 | interrupt anymore.                            |
| 22 | MR. SEEGERT: Okay. And then the last          |
| 23 | point that I wanted to make was that the      |

study that was done by MBI, for reasons that

24

1 escape me, did quite a bit of work. I think 2 they had about six or eight stations in the 3 Illinois River, not the area that's not part of this rulemaking. They also had a couple 5 or three stations in Lower Dresden Pool; in 6 other words, the area downstream of I-55. 7 you go back and read the QAPP and the study 8 plan, it says we're going to do "X" number of 9 stations. I think round numbers it was 30. 10 We're going to do "X" number of stations in 11 the Des Plaines River. There's no mention 12 about the Upper Des Plaines, there's no 13 mention about the Illinois. So what they 14 ended up doing was getting only a few 15 stations in the ship canal, a few stations in 16 Upper Dresden Island Pool, and then almost as 17 many in these other water bodies that are 18 even part of the rulemaking. And it still 19 doesn't make any sense to me. Why would you 20 want to take what effort you are -- which is 21 small to begin with, and then dilute it by 22 taking half of your effort in areas that 23 aren't even part of the rulemaking. 24 concentrated all our efforts on water body

|    | rage 24                                       |
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| 1  | segments at our part of the rulemaking.       |
| 2  | MR. ETTINGER: I'm sorry. On                   |
| 3  | Attachment 1, Page 5 of your testimony, you   |
| 4  | do data downstream Dresden Lock and Dam. Is   |
| 5  | that part of the body in the rulemaking?      |
| 6  | MR. SEEGERT: No. But that's                   |
| 7  | historical data that we're just summarizing.  |
| 8  | We had already collected all that data, so    |
| 9  | we're not going to ignore it. But all of the  |
| 10 | work that we did as part of these proceedings |
| 11 | all was concentrated.                         |
| 12 | MR. ETTINGER: But you do agree that           |
| 13 | that data might be relevant to this           |
| 14 | proceeding?                                   |
| 15 | MS. FRANZETTI: You're talking about           |
| 16 | the data he referenced in his report?         |
| 17 | MR. ETTINGER: Exactly.                        |
| 18 | MS. FRANZETTI: Not the Illinois River         |
| 19 | data?   |
| 20 | MR. ETTINGER: Well, this is Illinois          |
| 21 | River data, isn't it, downstream? Dresden     |
| 22 | Lock and Dam.                                 |
| 23 | MS. FRANZETTI: I meant the MBI's data         |
| 24 | in the Illinois River.                        |

|    | Page 25                                       |
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| 1  | MR. ETTINGER: No. I'm asking about            |
| 2  | his   |
| 3  | MS. FRANZETTI: That's the distinction         |
| 4  | I'm trying to draw.                           |
| 5  | MR. ETTINGER: Actually, my question           |
| 6  | is do you believe that this information that  |
| 7  | you put in your testimony regarding the river |
| 8  | is relevant?                                  |
| 9  | MR. SEEGERT: Yes.                             |
| 10 | MR. ETTINGER: Thank you.                      |
| 11 | MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, if I can just         |
| 12 | ask one follow-up for clarity. You referred   |
| 13 | to a study down in the Fox River on the       |
| 14 | effects of impoundment, but I don't think you |
| 15 | mentioned who that study was done by so that  |
| 16 | in the record we can tell what study you're   |
| 17 | referring to. Can you be a little more        |
| 18 | specific?                                     |
| 19 | MR. SEEGERT: My recollection was that         |
| 20 | the study was sponsored by U.S. EPA. There    |
| 21 | was a paper published, and the author lead    |
| 22 | author on that was Vick Santucci, 2007. I     |
| 23 | think the work was 2007. The paper might      |
| 24 | have been published the next year in 2008,    |

- but I'm not 100 percent positive on the date.
- 2 It is -- that is cited somewhere in my
- 3 testimony.
- 4 MS. FRANZETTI: Thank you.
- 5 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. Prefiled Question 8: What do you mean
- 7 when you say balanced population?
- 8 A. Well, to me balanced means it's not
- 9 going to be dominated by one or a few tolerant
- species. It means there's going to be all
- 11 represent -- good representations at all the trophic
- levels. It means that it's going to have a variety
- of fish which is consistent with that expected for a
- 14 good warm water fish community in this echo region,
- and my definition of a balanced population has the
- same meaning as the term BIP, balance indigenous
- population, or balanced indigenous community as it's
- used in the federal regulations, 40 CFR 125.71(C).
- MR. ETTINGER: Can I follow up for a
- second? What would be the fish that you
- would expect to see in this system that you
- don't see?
- MR. SEEGERT: Well, there's two
- answers to the question. One is there are

1 some species we don't see at all. 2 they're totally absent. And then there are a 3 number of others which are poorly 4 represented. And both are important. 5 There's some darter species that we would 6 expect to see and which we don't see at all. 7 Examples of things that we expect to see in 8 much better numbers, I believe the board --9 I'm not sure if this was testified to by 10 Mr. Yoder, but there's a group, it's part of 11 the IBI and one of the metrics is percent 12 round-bodied suckers that includes mostly 13 redhorse, but it also includes white sucker 14 and a couple of other sucker species. And so 15 the round-bodied suckers, although they are 16 present in this system, are present in much 17 reduced numbers. So I would expect much 18 better numbers of those if this was a 19 balanced system. And there's also some 20 minnow species that I would expect to be much 21 better represented than actually are 22 represented. 23 MR. ETTINGER: Would you expect

walleye in the system?

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|           | rage 20                                       |
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| 1         | MR. SEEGERT: No.                              |
| 2         | MR. ETTINGER: Why not?                        |
| 3         | MR. SEEGERT: Because walleye, they            |
| 4         | could live in the system, but their habitat   |
| 5         | requirements are such that I don't think that |
| 6         | there's enough hard substrate rock and cobble |
| 7         | that's going to support them either as        |
| 8         | adults, but particularly for spawning         |
| 9         | purposes, okay? The best thing I can or       |
| 10        | most appropriate thing to say is there's not  |
| 11        | adequate spawning habitat for walleye in the  |
| 12        | system.                                       |
| 13        | MR. ETTINGER: Do you know anything            |
| 14        | about the Kankakee River?                     |
| 15        | MR. SEEGERT: I know some things about         |
| 16        | the Kankakee River System.                    |
| 17        | MR. ETTINGER: Is there adequate               |
| 18        | spawning habitat for walleye in the Kankakee  |
| 19        | River?  |
| 20        | MR. SEEGERT: Yes.                             |
| 21        | MR. ETTINGER: Thank you.                      |
| 22        | HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Miss Diers?          |
| 23 BY MS. | DIERS:  |
| 24        | Q. I'm going to jump around just a little     |

- 1 bit for sake of topic and hopefully speed up time
- wise. Since we're talking about --
- MS. FRANZETTI: We're all yours for
- 4 this afternoon and tomorrow.
- 5 BY MS. DIERS:
- 6 Q. We're talking about the topic of
- 7 balanced population. If you look at our prefiled
- Question 100 with respect to Exhibit 2. We ask on
- 9 Page 2 of Exhibit 2 of --
- MS. FRANZETTI: Give us just a second
- 11 to catch up.
- MS. DIERS: I'm sorry to make you jump
- around. It shows up as 24 on my questions.
- I don't know if that helps.
- MS. FRANZETTI: We're there. Now I'm
- just trying to get to Page 2 of Exhibit 2.
- Okay.
- 18 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. On Page 2 of Exhibit 2 of your
- 20 prefiled testimony you state that the present fish
- 21 community in the Lower Des Plaines does not
- represent a balanced population. Do you include the
- Des Plaines River downstream of the interstate 55
- bridge in this opinion?

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1 A. In this case my answer is directed
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- only to a portion of the Des Plaines River upstream
- $^{3}$  of the I-55 bridge.
- MS. FRANZETTI: I think, Counsel,
- 5 again, just for clarity. You just referred
- to your answer. Did you mean to refer to
- your report that is the subject of counsel's
- guestion?
- 9 MR. SEEGERT: Yes.
- 10 BY MS. DIERS:
- 11 Q. Does that include parts of Brandon
- 12 Pool also?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. Prefiled Question 101. With respect
- to balance, what is, and I'm going to strike future
- and just ask, what is the attainable condition of
- the fish community in the Lower Des Plaines River?
- And then it's also asking in the Upper Dresden
- 19 Island Pool and Lower Des Plaines downstream of
- 20 interstate 55 bridge.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Actually, Counsel, the
- first part of the question is the Lower Des
- Plaines. Would -- Do you want -- Wouldn't
- that include parts of what follows after

- that? So I just -- Just so it's clear what
- he's responding to. You tell us, do you want
- him to break it down into first answer with
- 4 respect to upper Dresden --
- 5 MS. DIERS: Let's just go to Upper
- 6 Dresden Island Pool. Can you answer with
- 7 respect to that?
- MR. SEEGERT: For Upper Dresden Island
- 9 Pool, I would say that a use equivalent to
- what Mr. Rankin in his report referred to as
- modified warm water, I'd say that's a
- reasonable attainable use for Upper Dresden
- 13 Island Pool.
- 14 BY MS. DIERS:
- 15 Q. I'm going to strike where I reference
- in Lower Des Plaines downstream of interstate 55
- bridge and just ask what about Brandon Pool with
- 18 respect to this question?
- 19 A. Brandon Pool would, because the
- habitat there is even poorer, I would say that would
- 21 be something equivalent to, again, what Mr. Rankin
- referred to as limited resource water.
- Q. I'm going to go back to Question 9.
- What are the limiting physical and biological

- 1 conditions of -- when we say these waters, I'll
- 2 break it down first and say what are the limiting
- 3 physical and biological conditions of Upper Dresden
- 4 Island Pool?
- MS. FRANZETTI: You know what, why
- don't we do this? Are you planning to also
- ask the question separately for Brandon Pool?
- MS. DIERS: Yes.
- 9 MS. FRANZETTI: Okay. Just so he has
- that in mind, because maybe he can assimilate
- a little bit where they might apply to both;
- if you can, Greg. I don't know what's easier
- for to you do. First take it with respect to
- Upper Dresden Island Pool and then switch to
- Brandon.
- MR. SEEGERT: I think my answer is
- going to be that they apply in both areas.
- It's just that they're even more severe in
- Brandon, but it's the same suite of factors.
- 20 And those factors include very little fast
- water, no riffles; in this case I will say
- except in the Brandon tail water. So
- there -- in Brandon there are no riffles,
- Brandon Pool there are no riffles at all. In

both areas there's minimal clean hard

substrates. In this case by hard substrates

I'm talking about travel, cobble, rubble,

boulder. I'm not talking about sand, which

technically speaking is a hard substrate, but

I'm not referring to sand here.

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Sparse cover, this applies in It's even more sparse in Brandon both areas. than it is in the Upper Dresden Island Pool. Both areas have contaminated sediments, so now I'm making the distinction between sediments which are contaminated as opposed to just excessive siltation. There's minimal spawning areas for a variety of species with that being -- with that limitation being even more severe in the Brandon Pool than it is in Upper Dresden Pool. And also we have considerable and rapid fluctuation in water levels and stream flows; and, again, that's probably a little bit more pronounced than Brandon Pool, but certainly it also occurs in Upper Dresden Island Pool.

And then the -- I mean the biggest single factor in terms of the physical is the

1 presence of the locks and dams. And so many 2 of the factors that I just mentioned are a 3 direct result of that. So that when you have a dam, one of the things that happens is that 5 it obviously slows water down, results in considerable siltation, it covers up the 6 7 riffles. So many of these things, not only 8 are they a result of lock and dams, but 9 unless you literally remove the lock and 10 dams, those physical limitations are not 11 going to go away. 12

Another factor that I think fall into this category of physical factors are barge traffic and just the overall urban nature of this system, that that in and of itself causes a variety of problems.

MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, you asked about the biological conditions as well, right?

MS. DIERS: Yes.

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MR. SEEGERT: Okay. In biological limitations, some of those that I could mention would be -- This is the opposite of the balanced community. So here we have

dominance by a few highly tolerant fish, we 1 2 have reduced numbers of what I call quality 3 prey items, fish obviously need something to 4 eat, and a lot of the better macro 5 invertebrates are either reduced or 6 eliminated because of the kind of system that 7 we have here. There's also poor representation by several key groups. addresses a question that Mr. Ettinger raised 10 about what's missing. So here we have groups 11 like round-bodied suckers being poorly 12 represented, and then also we have low 13 numbers of intolerant species. One of the 14 things that the agency said that upper 15 Dresden Island Pool should have was 16 intolerant species. We don't have intolerant 17 species. They're essentially absent. So one 18 of the things that they said by their own 19 definition should occur in Upper Dresden 20 Island Pool are not there. And then, lastly, 21 I think Mr. Yoder might have referred to a 22 biological metric called DELT. DELT refers 23 to deformities, erosions, lesions, and 24 These are things that are on the

| 1  | outside of the fish. And we have extremely   |
|----|--|
| 2  | elevated levels of DELT throughout the       |
| 3  | system. There's an example where it's higher |
| 4  | in Brandon Pool than it is in Upper Dresden  |
| 5  | Island Pool, but it's still considerably     |
| 6  | elevated in Upper Dresden Island Pool.       |
| 7  | MR. ETTINGER: Can I just follow up or        |
| 8  | that question a little bit? Again, you say   |
| 9  | we're missing intolerant species. Which      |
| 10 | would those be that you would be wanting to  |
| 11 | find there?                                  |
| 12 | MR. SEEGERT: Black redhorse would be         |
| 13 | one example, roseyface shiner would be       |
| 14 | another example, hornyhead chub, now there   |
| 15 | we've collected a few, but not enough to be  |
| 16 | really basically to make a difference.       |
| 17 | There's, you know, one here, one there, and  |
| 18 | every other year, but there's obviously not  |
| 19 | an established population, as opposed to the |
| 20 | nonhornyhead chub.                           |
| 21 | MR. SULSKI: Rosyface and hornyhead.          |
| 22 | MR. SEEGERT: They kind of go hand in         |

MR. ETTINGER: Be glad we're not using

hand, yeah.

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|    | 1490   |
|----|--|
| 1  | their Latin names.                           |
| 2  | MS. FRANZETTI: Anything else?                |
| 3  | MR. SEEGERT: Those are just a couple         |
| 4  | off the top my head. And, of course, it all  |
| 5  | depends on what your definition of an        |
| 6  | intolerant species is.                       |
| 7  | MR. ETTINGER: Does the rosyface              |
| 8  | shiner operate in both small streams and     |
| 9  | large water bodies?                          |
| 10 | MR. SEEGERT: It's not a small It's           |
| 11 | more of a medium-sized stream fish. It's     |
| 12 | definitely not a head water fish. It's not a |
| 13 | big river fish. It's basically kind of a     |
| 14 | medium river fish.                           |
| 15 | MR. ETTINGER: Okay. You also, I just         |
| 16 | wanted to clarify on this. You said there's  |
| 17 | not enough hard surface?                     |
| 18 | MR. SEEGERT: Hard substrate.                 |
| 19 | MR. ETTINGER: What has to be hard and        |
| 20 | how big?                                     |
| 21 | MR. SEEGERT: Okay. I thought I had           |
| 22 | covered that. But technically speaking, hard |
| 23 | substrates include moving up in size from    |
| 24 | small to large with sand, gravel, cobble,    |

rubble, and boulder. Now, for -- sand is a

very poor substrate for spawning purposes for

most fish, but I'm including those other

categories. So we're talking about anything

from basically pea gravel, gravel the size of

a pea on up to boulders. And those would be

the hard substrates that I'm talking about.

MR. ETTINGER: And where do these substrates have to be in relationship to the water?

MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, you mean shoreline versus --

MR. ETTINGER: Yeah. Like too deep, too high? Where do you want your substrates?

MR. SEEGERT: That's not -- I can't think of a real short answer to this question. It very much depends on the species. So I'll just use a couple of examples. Something like small mouth bass or rock bass like boulder and large material, that could be along the edges, along the shore line of a water body. But the big limitation here is that you, for many of these species of fish, they need hard

|    | rage 33                                       |
|----|---|
| 1  | substrates in fast water. That's where they   |
| 2  | live, that's where they spawn. So just going  |
| 3  | out and throwing a bunch of rocks out in the  |
| 4  | channel of the river or even along the edge   |
| 5  | of the river doesn't do you any good. You     |
| 6  | have to have a functioning riffle. So a       |
| 7  | riffle is defined as fast water flowing over  |
| 8  | hard substrates. So you have to have both of  |
| 9  | those things going on for a whole variety of  |
| 10 | riffle-dwelling fish, fish that like riffles. |
| 11 | That's what they need as part of their life   |
| 12 | cycle.  |
| 13 | MR. ETTINGER: So looking at your              |
| 14 | pictures here of the Upper Dresden Pool.      |
| 15 | HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Where are            |
| 16 | those at in his testimony?                    |
| 17 | MR. ETTINGER: It's on Page 7 of               |
| 18 | Well, there's a bunch of them here. Page 7    |
| 19 | of Attachment 2B. I'm sorry. It says river    |
| 20 | mile 24 284.4. Looking at the middle          |
| 21 | picture on the left, those look like rocks to |
| 22 | me. Is that what those are?                   |
| 23 | MR. SEEGERT: You've nailed it.                |
|    |   |

MR. ETTINGER: I guess I'm better at

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|    | Page 40                                       |
|----|---|
| 1  | geology. So that would be a hard surface,     |
| 2  | would it?                                     |
| 3  | MR. SEEGERT: Right. But I should              |
| 4  | MR. ETTINGER: I'm sorry. Go ahead.            |
| 5  | MR. SEEGERT: No, it is. But you               |
| 6  | need, when you're doing evaluation, you asked |
| 7  | where these need to be, and I was going to    |
| 8  | smartly say in the water. But that answer     |
| 9  | actually applies here. If you look and see    |
| 10 | rocks up on the shore line, if they only go a |
| 11 | foot down from the shore, extend only out a   |
| 12 | foot, they're not going to be of any use. So  |
| 13 | it's a combination. That's one of the things  |
| 14 | as part of the QHEI, you're looking at the    |

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MR. ETTINGER: But if we stood on that rock and looked down and saw other rocks, we'd be okay.

hard substrates that are in the water and how

much of the zone, the area, are they

comprising.

MR. SEEGERT: We would be okay --Well, first of all, the rocks have to not be imbedded. There are a lot of places where you can have rocks, but there's so much

- siltation that it fills in the spaces between
- the rocks. So they stop functioning for
- their intended purpose. Also then we get the
- question this area, and I don't have all the
- 5 areas memorized, but just in looking at it,
- 6 this looks like it's a slow water area. So
- 7 this is an area that, assuming the rocks do
- 8 extend down into the water column, might be
- 9 okay for some of the species I mentioned like
- rock bass or small mouth bass. It would not
- be preferred habitat for a number of the
- redhorse or for darters.
- MR. ETTINGER: Okay. I won't take you
- through all the pictures now. But I
- appreciate you putting them in the package.
- 16 BY MS. DIERS:
- 17 Q. Is a white sucker an intolerant
- species? This is follow-up based on what we've been
- 19 talking about.
- A. No. That's a very good question. In
- fact, it's a highly tolerant species, but it does
- happen to be a round-bodied sucker, so it counts as
- part of that metric. But it's a -- as defined by
- Ohio EPA, and I think most other folks, it's a

- highly tolerant species.
- Q. What about the small mouth bass?
- 3 A. Small mouth bass would be moderately
- 4 intolerant. So it's not an intolerant, but it's
- 5 towards the intolerant end of the spectrum.
- 6 Q. What about redhorse suckers?
- 7 A. That depends on which of the redhorse
- 8 suckers you mean. There are six species of redhorse
- 9 suckers in the system.
- 10 Q. What about a black redhorse sucker?
- 11 A. Yeah. Black redhorse is generally
- 12 considered to be an intolerant.
- Q. Are there any others that are
- 14 intolerant?
- MS. FRANZETTI: That are present that
- have been found in the system?
- MS. DIERS: Yes.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Something that's been
- found at least once.
- MR. SEEGERT: Yeah. River redhorse
- 21 may be classified as an intolerant. I'm
- frankly not positive. It might be a
- moderately intolerant. And in short redhorse
- is another moderately intolerant. I think

- the only intolerant in that, in the group of
- 2 redhorse that's found here is black redhorse.
- 3 BY MS. DIERS:
- 4 Q. Prefiled Question 10: How did you go
- 5 about assessing the potential applicability of the
- 6 UA factors excluding factor six to the Chicago
- 7 Sanitary Ship Canal and the Lower Des Plaines with
- 8 respect to aquatic life uses?
- 9 A. Well, that's a pretty broad question
- covering a lot of work that I've been involved with,
- but also the assistance of other people at EA. And
- 12 it covers a multi-year time frame. In this case, as
- it applies to this rulemaking, one of the things I
- did was participate in the UAA stakeholder process,
- both in general, but particularly as a member of the
- biological advisory group. And we had a number of
- meetings and talked about many of the same issues
- that are the subject of these hearings. In much of
- 19 how we assess the potential applicability of the
- various UAA factors is described in the report
- that's attached to my prefiled testimony.
- Generally, we reviewed and determined whether any of
- the UA factors, that's factors 1 through 5, were or
- were not present in either the ship canal, the Lower

- 1 Des Plaines, or the south branch of the Chicago
- 2 River. So we went through the list and said does
- 3 this apply or does this apply. And then as part of
- 4 that process, we reviewed the various regulatory UAA
- 5 factors. We reviewed relevant materials regarding
- 6 interpretation and application of the UAA factors as
- 7 they've been published in various guidance manuals
- 8 provided by primarily U.S. EPA, but also some other
- 9 agency. We've reviewed the available data on the
- 10 physical and biological conditions in the ship canal
- and the Lower Des Plaines River. And we also
- 12 reviewed the available data on aquatic life in the
- 13 system as part of that. We looked, of course, at
- our large data set. We looked at the data set that
- was collected by MBI and we looked at some of the
- data that was collected from the district. And then
- we conducted various surveys and studies in the
- waterway. I've already mentioned the sediment
- 19 collections that we've made, the habitat reviews
- that we've done. We also reviewed studies and
- surveys done by others in this waterway. So we've
- reviewed the report prepared by Mr. Rankin, the
- various reports prepared by Mr. Yoder, many UAA
- reports, and looked not just at this water body, but

- 1 other water bodies that we thought would be relevant
- in this situation. And then drawing upon the
- 3 knowledge, skill, and experience of the people at
- 4 EA. And so it's not just myself, but other people
- 5 like Mr. Vondruska being involved in the process,
- 6 determine how this information applied and could be
- 7 integrated into the process of determining whether
- or not one or more of the UAA factors were applied.
- 9 And then, lastly, then based on putting everything
- together, evaluating whether and why the ship canal,
- 11 the south branch of the Chicago River and the Lower
- Des Plaines did or did not satisfy any of the five
- 13 UAA factors that we looked at.
- Q. What you just described, that work was
- done when you were hired by Midwest Generation in
- 16 2007 which led to Exhibit 2 which is dated, I
- believe, October 2008; is that correct?
- 18 A. Yes. Now, we drew on some biological
- data earlier than that, but the process of
- evaluating the UAA factors, all that was subsequent
- to being hired by Midwest Generation in 2007.
- Q. I think you stated you looked at other
- water bodies when you were doing this analysis.
- What water bodies were you referring to?

- A. Well, water bodies that we
- 2 specifically looked at in this area were the Fox
- River and the Kankakee River. Now, as part of the
- 4 biological advisory group, the general consensus was
- those areas weren't exactly the same because they
- 6 didn't have as many or severe limitations, but
- 7 nonetheless, they would provide some useful
- information, and they certainly would be good -- a
- 9 good frame of reference for looking at the kind of
- species we should be expecting since they're in the
- same geographic area. So those were the other water
- bodies that we looked at in some detail in arriving
- 13 at our conclusions.
- Q. When you looked at the Fox and
- 15 Kankakee river, were you looking at those when you
- were doing the analysis or when you were with the
- biological subcommittee, or were those waters you
- looked at in preparing Exhibit 2? I'm getting kind
- of confused.
- 20 A. Well, the -- In my capacity as one of
- the members of the biological advisory committee,
- that would have predated my being hired for Midwest
- 23 Generation to look at this -- as the issues as
- they've now been identified. But then I drew upon

- 1 that information.
- Q. Okay. Thank you. Question 11, and
- 3 this is going with respect to Exhibit 2: Did you,
- in essence, attempt to redo the UAAs done for these
- 5 waters?
- A. I would say no. We looked at -- we
- 7 certainly looked at the UAAs that had been already
- 8 done. We didn't want to reinvent the wheel.
- 9 Q. Have you performed or participated in
- 10 other UAAs?
- 11 A. Personally I've done a UAA for Brush
- 12 Wellman which is a company in Northwest Ohio. I
- also did one for the Coeur d'Alene Mining
- 14 Corporation. That was done at a site in the upper
- peninsula of Michigan. And then we did I call them
- 16 portions of UAAs for two other sites in Ohio: One
- for BP Chemical and one for Malcolm Pirnie, which is
- 18 a consulting company. And then EA staff from other
- offices have done UAAs on a variety of sites along
- the mid-Atlantic coastal area, Maryland, Virginia,
- 21 that neck of the woods.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, if I can just
- do a follow-up and clarifying the earlier
- part of your prior question. When counsel

asked did you, in essence, attempt to redo
the UAAs, you're referring to reinvent the
wheel. But do you think that there were
parts of this UAA that you did, in fact,
conduct a separate review akin to what the
UAA consultant did? Were there aspects where
maybe you got close to reinventing the wheel?

MR. SEEGERT: Well, certainly I would say we looked, I would call it independently, at each one of the UAA factors sort of without regard to what the UAA had concluded and said do the data justify the conclusions that were reached? But we reached our own conclusions for each of the various factors.

15 BY MS. DIERS:

Q. Question 12: You testify on Page 2 of your prefiled testimony that one of your tasks for Midwest Generation was to conduct a review of the aquatic habitat suitability for the Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal and Upper Dresden Island Pool directly relevant to Illinois EPA's proposed UAA rules. You also title Exhibit 2 to your testimony, Report on the Aquatic Life Use Attainability Analysis For the South Branch of the Chicago River, the Chicago

- 1 Sanitary Ship Canal, and the Upper Dresden Island
- Pool. Why did you not mention the Brandon Pool as a
- 3 part of this analysis?
- 4 A. Well, most of our analysis and
- 5 discussion has been focussed on the south branch of
- 6 the Chicago River, the Sanitary and Ship Canal, and
- 7 Upper Dresden Pool with a more limited discussion of
- 8 Brandon Pool. And so because we didn't spend a lot
- 9 of time talking about Brandon Pool, it wasn't
- highlighted in the title or included in the title
- 11 for that report. However, the analysis does include
- 12 Brandon Pool.
- Q. I'm going to skip 13. I think you
- just answered it.
- 15 Question 14: Based on your
- understanding of the Agency's proposal, is the south
- branch of the Chicago River expected to meet the
- 18 Clean Water Act Aquatic Life Goals?
- 19 A. No.
- Q. Is the sanitary -- Chicago Sanitary
- 21 and Ship Canal expected to meet the Clean Water Act
- 22 Aquatic Life Goals?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. Is Brandon Pool expected to meet the

- 1 Clean Water Act Aquatic Life Goals?
- 2 A. No.
- Q. And is Upper Dresden Island Pool
- 4 expected meet the Clean Water Act Aquatic Life
- 5 Goals?
- A. According to what you -- in the
- 7 statement of reasons it says it's going to
- 8 marginally be able to attain those goals.
- 9 Q. Fifteen: What is a limiting
- 10 biological condition as you use the term on Page 2
- of your prefiled testimony?
- 12 A. Well, by this I mean biological
- 13 factors or components that are going to limit how
- good the fish community can be. I think I probably
- mentioned all or most of these before, but some of
- the ones in this particular system that are
- currently limitations, and, in my opinion, will
- 18 continue to be limitations are dominance by a few
- highly tolerant fishes, reduced numbers of quality
- 20 prey items, poor representation by several key
- groups of species, low numbers of intolerant
- species, and a high percentage of fish with DELT
- 23 anomalies.
- Q. Sixteen: Why do you conclude that the

- limiting physical and biological conditions of these
- waters are only unrelated to thermal discharges?
- 3 See Page 2 of the prefiled testimony.
- 4 A. Because the physical conditions are
- 5 limiting regardless of the thermal discharges.
- 6 Q. What about the biological conditions?
- 7 I believe you just answered to the physical. And
- 8 the question asked --
- 9 A. No. I just answered biological.
- MS. FRANZETTI: I think you just
- answered physical.
- MS. DIERS: I thought it was physical.
- MS. WILLIAMS: Can we have the court
- 14 reporter read it back.
- 15 (Record read as
- requested.)
- MR. SEEGERT: Yes. In terms of the
- biological conditions, any of the biological
- responses that we've seen like dominance by
- highly tolerant fish, high levels of DELT
- anomalies, and all the other ones I've
- mentioned, they all are completely consistent
- with habitat limitations. And if you have
- poor habitat, or, in the case for the DELT

- anomalies, contaminated habitat, contaminated
- sediment, those factors just by themselves
- will produce all the responses that we saw
- 4 and regardless of what thermal discharge is
- 5 doing.
- 6 BY MS. DIERS:
- 7 Q. How did you rule out temperatures and
- 8 impact?
- 9 A. I mean it seems to me that's what I
- just explained of all these other -- that everything
- that we've observed is consistent with the physical
- 12 and biological limitations that are going in there.
- We don't need to try to invoke another factor when
- the weight of the evidence points directly in a
- different direction.
- MR. ETTINGER: Would you consider
- entrainment as a factor?
- MR. SEEGERT: I don't see how that
- would be relevant here.
- MR. ETTINGER: You have fish that
- aren't there. One of the things that could
- have happened to them is they could have been
- entrained.
- MR. SEEGERT: Well, that presupposes

- some level of entrainment, and there's been
- no evidence introduced as to what, if any,
- level of entrainment is going on in the
- 4 system. And even if fish are entrained, the
- fact that some number may be lost since
- 6 you're dealing with early life history
- 7 stages, typically there's actually no effect
- at the population level.
- 9 MR. ETTINGER: But you believe that
- the barge propellers are having an effect of
- 11 the population?
- MR. SEEGERT: I didn't say that.
- MR. ETTINGER: Oh, okay. We'll go on.
- 14 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Miss Diers?
- MS. DIERS: Just a moment, please.
- 16 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. Question 17: On Page 2 of your
- 18 prefiled testimony you state under U.S. EPA's rules
- 19 the existence of any one of the six UAA factors
- 20 alone is sufficient to demonstrate that a water body
- 21 is not capable of meeting Clean Water Act aquatic
- 22 life uses.
- Ouestion A: Is it correct that
- you analyzed five of the six UAA factors and found

- 1 four of them applicable to the Chicago Sanitary Ship
- 2 Canal, south branch Chicago River, and Upper Dresden
- 3 Island Pool?
- 4 A. Yes. And the same four factors also
- 5 applied throughout Brandon Pool.
- O. Do you agree that there's no
- 7 requirement in U.S. EPA's rules to examine all six
- 8 factors?
- 9 A. I don't know.
- 10 Q. Do you know if Midwest Generation has
- 11 asked someone else to perform a factor six analysis?
- 12 A. I don't know.
- Q. D, explain why factor one was found
- 14 not to be applicable.
- 15 A. Although various pollutants are
- present in the system, as far as I know, none of
- them are naturally occurring. So that's why we
- 18 discounted factor one. They're not -- There are
- pollutants, but they're not naturally occurring.
- Q. E, explain in more detail how you
- think the natural, ephemeral, intermittent or low
- 22 flow conditions or water levels prevent attainment
- of the use? And I believe that's with respect to
- 24 factor two.

- A. Well, factor two talks about water
- levels. And, to me, that means rapid fluctuations
- in water levels. It would also encompass abnormally
- 4 high water levels or abnormally low water levels.
- 5 We heard testimony earlier today about the rapid
- 6 changes in water levels that take place within the
- 7 system, so that's what I was talking about. And it
- 8 could either be problems because of the high or the
- 9 low water levels. Now, to the extent that these
- water level fluctuations are the result of
- 11 human-caused conditions, I think you could also
- include water levels under factor three. Similarly,
- if the dams or other hydrologic modifications in the
- 14 subject waterways cause or contribute to the water
- levels and the fluctuations of those levels, then
- 16 it's also a relevant issue under UAA factor four.
- 17 So you could include it in all -- in two, three, and
- 18 four. However, I do disagree that water levels are
- more appropriate in three or four. I think they're
- equally appropriate based on the EPA language to be
- 21 covered under UAA factor two, and that's where I
- 22 covered them.
- 23 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: For the
- record, before you move on, Miss Diers, we've

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been talking about the UAA factors, and I
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- 2 sometimes forget that we're all very familiar
- with this, but someone reading the transcript
- 4 may not be. The UAA factors are the factors
- listed in 40 CFR, 131.10, Subpart G.
- 6 MS. DIERS: Correct.
- MS. FRANZETTI: And, Counsel, I think
- Mr. Seegert's answer wound up answering some
- 9 additional subparts of E.
- MS. DIERS: That's what I was looking
- 11 at. Thanks.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Of 17E.
- 13 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. G, you state on Page 3 of your
- prefiled testimony that similarly low flow
- regulation, which is controlled by U.S. Army Corps
- of Engineers, in anticipation of flooding, can also
- adversely affect fish by exposing fish nest and eggs
- to ambient air and causing stranding in shallow
- areas which leads to increased predation on fish.
- 21 Please provide an example of this phenomenon on the
- 22 CAWS or Lower Des Plaines River.
- A. I'm sorry. Are you on G?
- 24 Q. Yes.

- A. G. Well, based on available data,
- 2 some of that Ms. Wozniak referred to earlier, and
- 3 then we know that water levels and flows
- 4 occasionally drop precipitously. And the EA field
- 5 crews have personally observed that one of these
- 6 examples is described in my testimony and one of the
- 7 ramifications of the water levels dropping rapidly
- 8 is that small fish, especially more than big fish,
- 9 could get stranded in the areas that quickly became
- 10 confined. In other words, they couldn't find their
- way back out of these areas. Also it's reasonable
- 12 to conclude based on the amount of fluctuation that
- 13 nest areas that would be in the same shallow areas
- would be -- might become desiccated or subject to
- 15 predation.
- Q. I'm going to strike Question H.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: And before
- you move on to Question 18, why don't we take
- a ten-minute break.
- 20 (Short break taken.)
- 21 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Are we ready
- to go ahead? Question No. 18 I believe is
- where we are, Miss Diers.

24

- 1 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. In describing the applicability of
- Factor 2, you only reference conditions in the CAWS.
- 4 Is it your testimony that Factor 2 is applicable to
- 5 the Lower Des Plaines also?
- A. I don't think that what you stated is
- 7 a correct characterization of my testimony in the
- 8 associated report on Pages 5 to 6 of my report which
- 9 is Exhibit 22 to the prefiled testimony. I do
- describe conditions in the lower Des Plaines River
- that apply to Factor 2. So, yes, Factor 2 is
- 12 applicable to the Lower Des Plaines River because
- 13 fluctuations in both flow and water levels do affect
- 14 the Lower Des Plaines.
- 15 Q. I'm going to strike 19 and go to 20.
- Do you have data from the waters addressed in this
- 17 rulemaking showing that these flows adversely affect
- 18 fish by causing nest abandonment and displacement of
- 19 recently hatched fish and by causing sediment
- deposition that buries and suffocate eggs?
- A. Well, as I previously mentioned, we
- 22 know that the water levels do change precipitously
- in the system, and myself and other members of the
- 24 EA have personally seen these effects take place in

- 1 the waterway. So from our knowledge and experience
- we can reasonably conclude that given the
- 3 fluctuations that are documented and that do occur,
- 4 we would expect these effects to occur. Now, we
- 5 have not gone out into the waterway specifically to
- try to document these effects, and we don't have
- 7 photographs. However, as an aquatic biologist,
- 8 we've worked in many different systems, we know that
- 9 the kinds of effects that I'm talking about can
- 10 reasonably expect -- be expected to occur. For
- example, I worked a lot on the Wabash River in
- 12 Indiana, and one of the main factors that effects
- 13 reproductive success of fishes there are high water
- events, that when you have high water fishes that
- are nest builders and some other species, the high
- water comes up and basically just flushes everything
- away. So we know that those things go on, and that
- there's no reason to believe that somehow the, I
- 19 guess they call it the hydraulics that are going on
- 20 at this system are somehow different than other
- 21 systems. It's basic physical principles.
- 22 Similarly, the adverse effects associated with
- sediment deposition is a widely-accepted fact. And,
- again, in this case, the species that are going to

- be most affected are those that fill the nest
- 2 because the eggs are going to be on the bottom. And
- 3 then the group that we call simple lithophils. When
- 4 Mr. Ettinger was asking some questions before,
- 5 something about why the rocks are important. Well,
- 6 the group of fish that's most affected or needs
- 7 clean rocks the most are the group we caught simple
- 8 lithophiles which these are fish that when they
- 9 spawn, the eggs get deposited in these open spaces
- in the rocks. And for the eggs to hatch
- successfully, you have to have good aeration, you
- 12 have to have circulation going on, and if the silt
- and sediment clogs up the rocks, then you're not
- 14 going to get adequate hatching. And species which
- then Mr. Ettinger referred to before, to walleye,
- 16 that -- walleye is a simple lithophil. So that's a
- species that's going to be affected very severely by
- 18 excess sedimentation.
- 19 So all these effects are widely
- 20 known and accepted. And water level fluctuations,
- it's more -- it's been investigated more of
- 22 hydrosites, because hydro power sites operate as
- 23 peaking operations. So they cause major
- 24 fluctuations. And so because of that, there's been

- a lot of research in that area showing what the
- effects of water level fluctuation. So, again,
- 3 these are all just standard responses to changes in
- 4 water levels.
- 5 Lastly, I'd note that the
- 6 difference here is that as opposed to hydrosite
- 7 where you can work with the hydro operator and
- 8 design a study to go on and say, okay, I want you
- guys to raise the pool or lower the pool or do
- something, here we have no control over the core,
- 11 how the core operates the dam. So, you know, they
- do what they want to do primarily in response to
- rainfall events. So we can't schedule high or low
- 14 flow events which is what you'd really need to
- document, fully document the effects that I've been
- describing. And also I would -- lastly I'd say that
- because there are so many stressors in the system,
- it's very hard to say, okay, the water level
- 19 fluctuation, that contributes 17.3 percent of the
- 20 stress in the system and all these things act
- 21 collectively and synergistically together. But,
- 22 again, just based on the physical changes that are
- going on, there's no reason to expect that the
- effects that have been seen in other water bodies

- 1 would not occur here.
- 2 Q. And did you say you saw these effects
- 3 in the Wabash River?
- 4 A. In this case I was referring to high
- 5 flow events.
- Q. And the Wabash is general use waters;
- 7 is that correct?
- 8 A. Well, they don't use that
- 9 classification system in Indiana.
- 10 Q. Oh, okay.
- 11 A. I think Mr. Vondruska wanted to --
- MR. VONDRUSKA: Another site we have
- been out in the field in numerous occasions
- in the Brandon tail water where they've got
- the sanding and stuff, and we've seen these
- fluctuations that have been talked about
- here. Ms. Wozniak said that the core report
- sees flow levels every like two hours. Well,
- we've been out there in literally 15 or 20
- 20 minutes and see water go from about thigh
- deep to ankle deep. You have to be careful
- where our -- we tie up our boat. But on the
- same lines, we've seen actually small fish
- isolated that get stuck in these isolated

- pools along the edges of the Brandon tail
- water because of these severe rapid
- 3 fluctuations.
- 4 BY MS. DIERS:
- 5 Q. So Question 22, how high does the flow
- 6 need to be to cause these problems?
- 7 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Excuse me.
- Just for the record, 21 is how high and 22 is
- 9 how low.
- MS. DIERS: Yes, thank you.
- MS. FRANZETTI: And we're taking how
- 12 high first?
- MS. DIERS: Yes.
- MR. SEEGERT: Well, I mean, again, I
- don't think I can give you an exact number in
- terms of either level or flow. That's not
- how the literature frames this particular
- question. And it also has to do not just
- with the absolute number, but how rapid the
- change is. So if there's a gradual build-up
- in flow or a gradual decline in flow, you
- might end up at the same place. You might
- not end up as high as you would or as low as
- you would, but it's going to be much worse if

| 1  | the change occurs over a few minutes or a     |
|----|---|
| 2  | couple hours versus over a few days.          |
| 3  | Basically if the water level goes up slowly,  |
| 4  | fish are able to move and take refuge.        |
| 5  | Conversely, if it drops slowly, then they can |
| 6  | say, hey, it's getting really low in here.    |
| 7  | I've got to get the hell out of here. That's  |
| 8  | what they do. But if all of a sudden it       |
| 9  | drops like a rock, and, as Mr. Vondruska      |
| 10 | mentioned, they can get stranded. In this     |
| 11 | case, the little fish are going to be even    |
| 12 | more at risk because they don't have as much  |
| 13 | swimming ability as the larger fish would.    |
| 14 | And seasonality also has a                    |
| 15 | is a factor. The high flows like in the       |
| 16 | Wabash, if that happened during the winter,   |
| 17 | it obviously wouldn't affect nest building    |
| 18 | because the fish breed during the spring and  |
| 19 | summer. So you have to consider when the      |
| 20 | high or low flow events take place.           |
| 21 | MR. ETTINGER: You have to be careful          |

year to year, because sometimes the whole

year reproduction can be wiped out by a

flood, can't it?

22

23

24

1 MR. SEEGERT: I'm sorry? Is that a

2 question?

6

3 MR. ETTINGER: Yes.

4 MS. DEXTER: He said can't it.

5 MR. ETTINGER: Can't it?

I don't think that all MR. SEEGERT: 7 the -- I mean 100 percent of the individuals 8 would be wiped out. It might be a fairly 9 high percentage. If you look at your class 10 strength in fish is one of the things that 11 you see is it's not constant. It is highly 12 variable. The other factor would be what 13 species. Some species are -- mainly because

14 of their reproductive -- or their strategy,

15 they're going to be affected much more.

16 some fish would be able to handle high flow

17 events much easier than other species would.

18 So it would depend on the species.

19 BY MS. DIERS:

20 Twenty three: Do you have any data 0.

21 from the waters addressed in this rulemaking showing

22 that barges produce wakes or waves that push water

23 into the back water channels causing rapid changes

24 in the water levels and stirring up harmful

- 1 sediment?
- A. Well, the EA field crews working on
- 3 the waterway, and we've been working on this
- 4 waterway for a long time, have personally observed
- 5 and experienced the effects of these barge-caused
- 6 waves. We've actually seen it happen, and I've seen
- 7 it happen. And if you just think about the volume
- of water that's being pushed by these barges, it's
- 9 not hard to envision that this would also stir up
- the sediment. Again, it's just you push a whole
- 11 bunch of water. You expect that things are going to
- 12 get churned up.
- 13 Q. Twenty four: What extensive studies
- are you referring to on Page 4 of your prefiled
- 15 testimony with respect to sediments?
- 16 A. I had mentioned early on in my
- 17 testimony that EA has been doing studies in the ship
- canal and the Lower Des Plaines for more than 25
- 19 years. So over that entire period we've observed
- sediment conditions, and, in addition, we did QHEI
- 21 studies, specific habitat studies where part of that
- 22 is looking at the sediment. We did studies of that
- nature in '93, '94, 2003, and the most recent one in
- 24 2008. That specifically includes a component or a

- 1 metric where we look at sediment amount and sediment
- quality. And all of that information has been
- 3 included in our submittals. And then also as far as
- 4 contaminated sediment, that information is attached
- 5 to Dr. Burton's prefiled testimony as Appendix C of
- 6 Attachment 1.
- 7 MR. ETTINGER: Can I just break in
- here to ask whether you're aware of any
- 9 studies of the effect of barge traffic on
- waterways and fisheries?
- MS. FRANZETTI: Generally, any waters?
- MR. ETTINGER: Any waters.
- MR. SEEGERT: Well, I cited in my
- prefiled testimony studies that were done on
- the Mississippi River where they were able to
- show that barges, there's actually a physical
- thing with the propellers on the barges
- strike a certain number of fish. It doesn't
- happen very often, but if you have many, many
- barges, I don't -- I can't remember the
- number, but I think of thousands of barges,
- it stands to reason that every once in a
- while besides the water being pushed around
- and sediment being stirred up, that these

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1 props are periodically going to hit and
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- either then kill or injure fish in the
- 3 waterway. But studies were done on the
- 4 Mississippi River that actually based on,
- 5 I'll call it a hit rate, that extrapolated
- 6 based on a number of barges how many fish
- 7 were going to be killed over the course of
- one barge season.
- 9 MR. ETTINGER: Are you aware of any
- studies done by the Corps of Engineers of the
- barge companies of the Illinois River and the
- effect or lack of effect of barges there?
- MR. SEEGERT: I'm not aware of any
- studies.
- 15 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. Question 25: What higher quality
- fish, that's in quotes, are you referring to on
- Page 4 of your prefiled testimony?
- 19 A. Well, when I say higher quality, I'm
- generally talking about species that would either be
- 21 intolerant species or moderately intolerant species.
- 22 Some of those would be groups that I've already
- mentioned; pretty much all the darters, redhorse,
- smallmouth bass, madtons, and certain minnows.

- Q. Question 26: How did you come to the
- 2 conclusion reached on Page 4 of your prefiled
- 3 testimony that the removal of one limiting factor
- 4 such as sediments would not improve aquatic habitat?
- 5 A. Because if you remove the sediment
- factor, there's going to still be other limiting
- 7 factors on the aquatic life that are going to be
- 8 sufficient to satisfy one or more of the UAA
- 9 factors, aquatic habitat, not aquatic life.
- 10 Q. I'm going to ask Question 41 of our
- 11 prefiled questions here. I think it fits in better
- 12 here. And 41 is on Page 12, so I'll give you time
- 13 to get there. You testified that fine silty and
- organic nature of sediments in the Chicago Sanitary
- and Ship Canal and the Lower Des Plaines are not
- suitable for many higher quality fish species which
- 17 require hard, clean substrate for spawning and
- 18 reproduction. Isn't it true that -- I'm going to
- change many to, I'll just say some, natural water
- 20 bodies have the same condition of silty sediments
- 21 not suitable for certain species of fish?
- A. First of all, I'd say that silty
- 23 sediments are not the natural condition in most
- streams. It's a result of excess inputs of

- 1 sediments. So that's the first point that I would
- 2 make. And that whenever this condition is
- encountered, in other words, deposition of silt,
- 4 you're going to have a negative effect on the
- overall fish community. Yes, there might be some
- fishes that wouldn't be affected, but, again, those
- 7 would be ones that would be in this highly tolerant
- group. So when you have excess siltation,
- 9 regardless of what caused it, that is going to --
- that is going to negatively effect the fish fauna.
- 11 And the fact that you have an excess amount of silt
- 12 indicates, one, a lot is coming in; and, two,
- there's not sufficient scouring to move it out.
- 14 That's one of the real problems that we have here.
- 15 I haven't done studies to determine the actual
- loading of sediment into this system, but what
- happens is whatever does come in, it drops out
- 18 because it runs into the dam. The dam caused the
- water to slow down, and then the water slows down,
- this material settles out and causes the problem.
- 21 And, lastly, I'd say that, you know, what you're
- referring to as natural water body that has the same
- amount of siltation, sedimentation that we're seeing
- here, that we see here, would experience the same

- 1 kind of problems and result in poor fish community.
- MR. ETTINGER: Have you studied the
- level of siltation in the Kankakee River?
- 4 MR. SEEGERT: Define study.
- 5 MR. ETTINGER: All right. Do you know
- the level of siltation in the Kankakee River?

7 MR. SEEGERT: The Kankakee, this

directly addresses what I was just saying

9 about it's not just a mouth that comes in;

it's not just the loading, but what happens

to the loading. I have sampled the Kankakee

quite a bit. The riffle areas and the fast

water areas in the Kankakee are quite clean.

So you have -- the Kankakee has an absolutely

wonderful fish community. Without a doubt

it's far and away the best fish community in

northeast Illinois, and one of the big

reasons for that is you get -- not get -- you

have the things that the CAWS and the ship

canal and the Lower Des Plaines don't which

is clean riffles, riffles without a lot of

sedimentation. This allows the Kankakee to

have a very diverse darter community, have

redhorse number s that are at least in order

|    | Page 72                                      |
|----|--|
| 1  | of magnitude higher than we see in this      |
| 2  | system.                                      |
| 3  | MR. ETTINGER: Is the Kankakee                |
| 4  | impounded?                                   |
| 5  | MR. SEEGERT: The Kankakee has I              |
| 6  | believe only one dam, and there's definitely |
| 7  | a dam at Wilmington.                         |
| 8  | MR. ETTINGER: Yes.                           |
| 9  | MR. SEEGERT: I thought there was one         |
| 10 | up at Kankakee, but I was looking at a map   |
| 11 | and I couldn't find it. So maybe it          |
| 12 | doesn't maybe my memory is foggy on that.    |
| 13 | MR. ETTINGER: I think we were trying         |
| 14 | to get rid of it years ago.                  |
| 15 | MR. SEEGERT: I've sampled both above         |
| 16 | and below that dam. It's relatively low, so  |
| 17 | it's not a high dam. So it doesn't impound   |
| 18 | very much of the waterway. So it's really    |
| 19 | not having much of an effect. I mean there   |
| 20 | would be a small negative effect immediately |
| 21 | upstream in the dam, but if you look at how  |
| 22 | long the Kankakee is from when it enters,    |
| 23 | just talking about the Illinois portion from |
| 24 | when it enters from Indiana and joins the    |

| 1  | Illinois River, I don't know, 40, 50 river    |
|----|---|
| 2  | miles, you have one dam, and it's a fairly    |
| 3  | small dam.                                    |
| 4  | MR. ETTINGER: Isn't the same dam              |
| 5  | impounding the Kankakee, the lower Kankakee   |
| 6  | that's impounding the Upper Dresden Pool or   |
| 7  | the Lower Dresden Pool?                       |
| 8  | MR. SEEGERT: No.                              |
| 9  | MR. ETTINGER: Isn't the Dresden Dam           |
| 10 | below the Kankakee?                           |
| 11 | MR. SEEGERT: The I think what                 |
| 12 | you're asking is Is what you're asking is     |
| 13 | does Dresden Dam impound a portion of the     |
| 14 | Kankakee River? Is that your question?        |
| 15 | MR. ETTINGER: Yes. Well, that would           |
| 16 | be part of an answer.                         |
| 17 | MR. SEEGERT: Yes. Because the level           |
| 18 | of Dresden Pool has been artificially raised. |
| 19 | There is a few miles of the lower Kankakee    |
| 20 | that are impounded as a result of the Dresder |
| 21 | Island Lock and Dam.                          |
| 22 | MR. ETTINGER: So the Dresden Island           |
| 23 | Lock and Dam is the same dam impounding the   |
| 24 | Upper Dresden Pool up to Brandon, isn't it?   |

1 MR. SEEGERT: Yes. But there's a big 2 difference that the Kankakee, the amount that 3 the Dresden Dam impounds of the Kankakee is a 4 small percentage. I haven't done 5 calculations, but just off the top of my 6 head, I guess that's less than 10 percent of 7 the lower Kankakee. Dresden Island Lock and 8 Dam impounds 93 percent of Dresden Pool. 9 it's -- Any time you're talking about dams, 10 you've got to think about three things: 11 is how many dams are there, how high are 12 they, and what's the grading? Because 13 ultimately -- And then ultimately what you 14 then want to know is how much of the water 15 body in question is impounded. 16 5 percent? If it's 5 percent, it's probably 17 not a big deal. But if it's 90 percent, or, 18 in this case, 93 percent, that's a big deal. 19 MR. ETTINGER: Okay. There's a dam at 20 Wilmington and there's a dam at Dresden. 21 much of the Kankakee is impounded? 22 MR. SEEGERT: Again, I would guess 23 that the Illinois portion may be 10 percent 24 or less. I'd say 10 percent or less.

- MR. ETTINGER: Thank you.
- 2 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. I think we're on 27.
- 4 MS. FRANZETTI: I'm sorry?
- MS. DIERS: I think we're going to 27,
- but just a moment, please.
- 7 MR. ETTINGER: I'm sorry. I have one
- more follow-up. How do you measure how far
- 9 upstream from a dam that a water is
- impounding?
- MR. SEEGERT: Well, you could look at
- elevation maps and see where the normal level
- of the dam is and basically how far it backs
- the water up. And so that would be more
- of an analytical way of doing it. In our
- case, we relied -- or I relied on the
- observation of my field crews and basically
- said or asked the question of them as when
- does a transition from a tail water area with
- some reasonable velocity to where the
- impounding starts. And the answer was one
- 22 mile. And I believe Mr. Yoder also addressed
- this question. My recollection is he said
- about a mile also.

|    | rage /e                                       |
|----|---|
| 1  | MR. ETTINGER: I'm sorry. A mile               |
| 2  | MR. SEEGERT: So it was about a mile           |
| 3  | is free flowing. The tail water area          |
| 4  | encompasses roughly one mile of Dresden Pool, |
| 5  | and that which means there's 13 miles that    |
| 6  | are impounded.                                |
| 7  | MS. WILLIAMS: Can I ask a quick               |
| 8  | follow-up? You said there was a third you     |
| 9  | listed three things you have to look at, and  |
| 10 | the third one was gradient?                   |
| 11 | MR. SEEGERT: Yes.                             |
| 12 | MS. WILLIAMS: Do the Kankakee River           |
| 13 | and the Des Plaines River have similar        |
| 14 | characteristics with regard to grading?       |
| 15 | MR. SEEGERT: Based I haven't                  |
| 16 | looked at a topo map for elevations, but just |
| 17 | based on my observations, I would say that    |
| 18 | the Kankakee has a higher gradient.           |
| 19 | MS. WILLIAMS: And in the absence of           |
| 20 | the dam that's impounding Upper Dresden       |
| 21 | Island Pool, do you have any evidence that    |
| 22 | the a natural flowing Des Plaines River       |
| 23 | would have riffles?                           |
| 24 | MS. FRANZETTI: I'm just going to              |

object to the hypothetical nature of the question, but.

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MR. SEEGERT: Well, the short answer is why wouldn't it? I mean think -- if the Kankakee has riffles, and even though it might have a little bit higher gradient, basically all water bodies are going to have riffle areas. The question is how far apart are they spaced? If they look on the other side, we look at the Fox River, which I think there probably the gradient is probably even closer to what it is in the Des Plaines, the Fox River also has well-defined riffle areas. So basically all the systems I'm familiar with, including the Rock River, all the big rivers in Northern Illinois have riffles. So --

MS. WILLIAMS: I intended to limit my question to the Upper Dresden Island Pool portion. That's geographically speaking.

MS. FRANZETTI: You mean north of I-55, upstream of I-55 bridge as defined in this proceeding? Is that what you want him to limit his answer to?

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Page 78
 1
                   MS. WILLIAMS: Yes, I think so.
                                                      I'm
 2
            not talking about the -- what I want to get
 3
            at is I'm not talking about the entire Des
            Plaines River. I'm just looking at this
            portion to see if you would agree that the
 6
            gradient is very flat, and in its natural
 7
            state would not have riffles either.
 8
                   MR. SEEGERT:
                                  I don't know that.
 9
                   MS. WILLIAMS: Okay.
10
     BY MS. DIERS:
11
            0.
                   Twenty-seven: What areas were salable
12
     in 2003 to help you come to the conclusion that
13
     sedimentation was moderate to severe in 70 percent
14
     of the areas where QHEI scores were assessed?
15
            Α.
                   In 2003 we sampled 30 main channel
16
     border and four off-channel location -- off-channel
17
     locations in Dresden Pool. Based on those 34
18
     locations, then 70 percent had moderate to severe
19
     sedimentation.
20
            0.
                   Did that include the upper and lower
21
     Dresden Island Pool?
22
```

Α.

0.

23

24

Yes.

Twenty-eight, what was the percentage

of sedimentation that was moderate or severe for

- 1 2008?
- A. Well, in this case I should -- and
- 3 I'll start off by saying in 2008 we only did Upper
- 4 Dresden Island Pool, and it turned out just
- 5 coincidentally that it was also 70 percent, exactly
- 6 the same number. I actually had to go back because
- 7 when I first saw that and I had one of my guys
- 8 calculate it and said are you sure this is right?
- 9 I'm not talking about 2003. And it turned out in
- 2008 it was the identical number, 70 percent.
- 11 Q. Twenty-nine: What extensive studies
- are you referring to on Page 5 of your prefiled
- testimony with respect to contaminated sediments?
- 14 A. These would be the various studies
- that have been done by Dr. Burton.
- Q. And are all those studies done by
- Dr. Burton, are they in the record or are they
- attached to Dr. Burton's testimony?
- MS. FRANZETTI: Well, at least the
- 20 2008 is the subject of the data, on the
- reporting the data, is in the EA report that
- is attached to Burton's prefiled testimony
- and on which then in his testimony in his
- report he relies and draws conclusions based

Then Dr. Burton's earlier study -- he on. 2 supervised the EA study, and I know it gets a

3 little confusing, so I'll just add this in

anticipation of Dr. Burton's appearance here

5 maybe and lend some clarification.

6 Dr. Burton oversaw that EA study.

In other words, he decided what should be

8 included, number of locations sampled, that

9 sort of thing. They then physically went out

10 and collected the samples and had them

11 analyzed. Dr. Burton then did an earlier

12 study with respect to sediment back in, I'm

13 going to blank, was it 1990 --

14 MR. ETTINGER: He testified in the

15 '80s.

1

7

16 MS. FRANZETTI: In the '80s.

17 blanking off the top of my head when his

18 prior studies are. They are all at least

19 referenced in his prefiled testimony and

20 attached report. I do not believe that

21 you're asking is a separate copy of any study

22 report also attached to those earlier ones,

23 I believe just that the data from them

24 is summarized in what was filed with the 1 board.

2 If I may answer the MR. SEEGERT: 3 question about where we had sampled in 2003. 4 I did want to add on that when we did the 5 work in 2003, I believe both Mr. Smogor and 6 Mr. Essig did accompany EA during all or a 7 good portion of our field effort. We always try to, wherever we can, engage the Agency, 9 and basically make our studies as transparent 10 as possible. And, as far as I know, they 11 both were satisfied with the locations that 12 we chose to sample and how we did the 13 sampling.

14 BY MS. DIERS:

24

- 15 Q. Thirty: Do you know why contaminated 16 sediments are predominantly found in the side
- 17 channels in back water areas?
- A. Yes. Most contaminants are found out with small grain sediment. This would be clays and silt. These materials stay in suspension when the current speed is moderate to high, but drop out in areas where there's little or no current. And, in this system, that's going to be areas in the side

channel, especially in the back waters to the extent

- that back waters exist, and then to some extent as
- we talked about earlier, in the areas just fairly
- 3 close to the dam because that's where the current
- 4 velocity is going to be the least. So anywhere
- 5 where there's little or no current, these fine
- 6 materials settle out, and that's what these
- 7 materials are bound up with.
- Q. Question 31: Is it your professional
- 9 opinion that the sediments will not improve in these
- waters? And when I say "these waters," I'm
- 11 referring to Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal and the
- 12 Upper Dresden Island Pool.
- MS. FRANZETTI: And, Counsel, just a
- clarification: Do you intend to include both
- in terms of quantity and quality, cover both
- potential areas on that question?
- MS. DIERS: Yes, cover both, please.
- MR. SEEGERT: I'll break my answer
- into two parts. As far as just the volume of
- sediment, not dealing with whether it might
- or might not be toxic. I don't think things
- are going to change appreciably. I think
- relatively the same volume of material will
- come in. I know TARP is going to go online

1 and presumably will result in some -- There's 2 going to be fewer CSO events, but I'm still 3 expecting that overall about the same amount 4 of sediment is going to come into the system. In terms just about sediment quantity, I 6 don't think that's going to change 7 appreciably over the next, say, five to ten 8 As far as the quality, their problem years. 9 is the amount of -- that some people term 10 legacy pollutants. This isn't necessarily 11 material in the sediment that was deposited 12 in the last days or weeks or even last couple 13 There's material from way back when vears. 14 when the rules and regulations weren't nearly 15 as strict. And that material is still there. 16 Now, we had testimony from the State 17 basically eons ago, something to the effect 18 that this material would essentially be 19 capped, that clean new material would fall on 20 top of the old contaminated material. 21 don't see how this is going to happen, 22 because the barges keep resuspending this. 23 So the nasty stuff might temporarily get 24 capped off by new material, but it's going to

- be constantly resuspended within the channel
- due to prop wash and all these waves sloshing
- back and forth are going to keep stirring up
- 4 the sediment. So I think the contaminated
- 5 sediment are going to continuously be
- reexposed. So given that, I don't see that
- 7 the quality, that sediment quality, is going
- 8 to improve appreciably in the future.
- 9 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. And would that answer change if we
- looked at the Brandon Pool?
- 12 A. Pardon?
- Q. Would the answer change if we looked
- 14 at Brandon Pool?
- 15 A. It would be the same answer.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- MR. ETTINGER: Would the answer change
- if you looked at the Illinois River?
- MS. FRANZETTI: You mean are there
- sediments improving in the Illinois River?
- MR. ETTINGER: Is there not a ton of
- sediment coming from agriculture in the
- 23 Illinois River?
- MR. SEEGERT: Well, remember, there's

- 1 two answers: One has to do with sediment
- quality and one has to do with sediment
- quantity. And I can't -- There's, coming
- into the Illinois River, I would expect that
- 5 the quality of the sediment is better.
- 6 Whether the sediment load is going to change
- in the next five or ten or 20 years, I have
- 8 no opinion.
- 9 MR. ETTINGER: Have you looked at the
- efforts of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation
- District to establish storm water control in
- 12 systems for Cook County?
- MR. SEEGERT: No, I have not.
- 14 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. Would the more severely contaminated
- sediments that are resuspended eventually move
- downstream through the system?
- A. I'm sorry?
- 19 Q. Would the more severely contaminated
- sediments that we've talked about that are
- resuspended eventually moved downstream through the
- 22 system?
- A. Not being a hydrologist, I don't think
- I can answer that question.

- 1 Q. I'm going to strike 32 and 33 and go
- 2 to 34. How are you defining viable population as
- 3 used on Page 12 of the prefiled testimony?
- 4 A. Viable populations are those that are
- 5 self-sustaining and of a size expected for the water
- 6 body in question. For a population to be
- 7 self-sustaining, the water body in which the
- 8 population lives about must provide habitat for all
- 9 the needed life history functions. In other words,
- it needs places to spawn successfully, places to
- 11 feed, places to hide so it isn't predated upon. And
- 12 for various species and groups, the Upper Des
- 13 Plaines -- Upper Dresden Island Pool does not have
- 14 these attributes.
- 15 Q. Thirty-five: Please explain your
- 16 conclusion that the Upper Dresden Island Pool has
- far more in common with Ohio's modified warm water
- use designation than with Ohio's warm water use
- 19 designation?
- A. Well, it has more of the
- 21 characteristics of a modified stream. And
- Mr. Rankin's report, he had a table where he put
- checkmarks in boxes whether it had certain --
- whether it had the characteristics of modified

- 1 stream or warm water stream. In this system there
- 2 are a lot more boxes checked in the modified side of
- 3 that table than there were in the warm water side.
- 4 So it has -- It has the characteristics of a
- 5 modified stream.
- 6 MR. ETTINGER: Do you know of any
- 7 streams in Ohio --
- MS. FRANZETTI: Just a second, Albert.
- 9 MR. SEEGERT: Well, right, the
- 10 characteristics of modified streams are
- things like impounded, channelized, lack of
- sinuosity, excessive siltation, lack of
- riffles, lack of -- a lack of riffles and
- fast water, and basically all of the things
- that this system lacks are the things that
- he's talking about. I mean he basically
- describes his attributes of a warm water
- stream describe this system to a tee for the
- modified. They describe what this system is.
- It has all of these things. It's impounded,
- it's channelized, it has no -- except for the
- Brandon tail waters, no riffles. It has a
- lot of siltation, it has a lack of gradient.
- It's got the characteristic of modified

|    | 1490 00                                       |
|----|---|
| 1  | stream, not a warm water stream.              |
| 2  | MR. ETTINGER: I was going to ask              |
| 3  | whether you're familiar with any waters in    |
| 4  | Ohio that have this classification.           |
| 5  | MR. SEEGERT: Of which classification?         |
| 6  | MR. ETTINGER: Modified.                       |
| 7  | MR. SEEGERT: Yes.                             |
| 8  | MR. ETTINGER: Which ones would those          |
| 9  | be?   |
| 10 | MR. SEEGERT: Parts of the Great Miami         |
| 11 | used to. I think they've done an upgrade.     |
| 12 | There's some of the stream up in the          |
| 13 | Akron/Canton area, Tuscarawas River. Part of  |
| 14 | it is modified, and then there are some small |
| 15 | tributaries up in that area that I've worked  |
| 16 | on. There's a place called Pyrford Run where  |
| 17 | you have a stream that's only three miles     |
| 18 | long and it has three different uses. It      |
| 19 | goes Basically the upper mile is limited      |
|    |   |

resource water, then it goes into modified
for another mile, and the last mile is warm
water. So it's just in a roughly three-mile
long head water stream, Ohio EPA divided it
into three different uses based on how

|    | - 4-9   |
|----|---|
| 1  | habitat changes over three miles.             |
| 2  | MS. WILLIAMS: And does Ohio                   |
| 3  | distinguish temperature criteria between      |
| 4  | modified warm water and warm water use        |
| 5  | designations?                                 |
| 6  | MR. SEEGERT: I believe I don't                |
| 7  | believe so, that they Well, yes and no.       |
| 8  | MS. WILLIAMS: So by yes or by no, you         |
| 9  | would mean they have the same criteria for    |
| 10 | warm water and modified warm water?           |
| 11 | MR. SEEGERT: No. What they do is for          |
| 12 | setting temperature, they look at basins, and |
| 13 | then they say for this particular basin, what |
| 14 | is the species assemblage that needs to be    |
| 15 | protected. And then based on the species      |
| 16 | assemblage that needs to be protected, then   |
| 17 | they set their temperature limits             |
| 18 | accordingly. So it's really not use driven,   |
| 19 | it's species composition driven.              |
| 20 | And then the reason I said yes and            |
| 21 | no so that's the no. But then the yes         |
| 22 | part is that because modified and limited     |
| 23 | resource streams often have different species |

assemblage then depending on how much of a

24

- 1 percentage of the basin streams in that
- classification make up, that could result in
- different thermal levels.
- 4 BY MS. DIERS:
- 5 Q. Do you know how many sites Rankin
- 6 visited in the Upper Dresden Pool?
- 7 A. Pardon?
- Q. Do you know how many sites Rankin
- 9 visited when he was in the Upper Dresden Island
- 10 Pool?
- 11 A. I believe two, either two or three. I
- 12 think it was two.
- Q. I think we did 35. I'm going to
- strike 36, I'm going to strike 37, and go to 38.
- You testify on Page 4 about heavy
- barge traffic. Are you testifying that barge
- traffic is a protected use or a limiting factor to
- 18 aquatic life or both?
- A. Both. It's my understanding that
- 20 navigation is a protected use. And so if you're
- going to have as a protected use -- I'm sorry.
- 22 That's -- it's both, again, because my understanding
- is that navigation is a protected use.
- Q. A, if barge traffic is a protected

- use, what standards are necessary to protect that
- 2 use?
- A. I haven't been asked to review that
- 4 issue, so I can't speak to what standards might be
- 5 necessary to protect barge traffic.
- 6 Q. B, if it's a limiting factor, are you
- 7 saying it is a human cause condition or source of
- 8 pollution pursuant to UA Factor 3? And, if so,
- 9 would it cause greater environmental harm to remove
- this factor or leave it in place?
- 11 A. Okay. For the first part I would say
- 12 yes, I consider it to be a human cause condition.
- 13 The -- For the second part I'd say the relevant
- question is not whether it would cause greater harm
- to remove the barge traffic, but whether barge
- 16 traffic can or should be removed. The UAA factor
- 17 three asked whether human cause conditions cannot be
- 18 remedied. My understanding is that barge traffic as
- a longstanding navigational use in this waterway is
- 20 a protected use. Therefore, I don't believe it
- could be eliminated in order to improve the
- 22 waterways' potential for obtaining the Clean Water
- 23 Act goals, supporting full aquatic use. Also,
- eliminating the barge traffic would probably have

- 1 significant economic ramifications to the barge
- 2 industry and the companies that depend on the
- materials they provide, which then could become an
- issue under UAA Factor 6, but that was beyond the
- 5 scope of my inquiry.
- 6 Q. Thirty-nine: Why do you consider
- 7 sedimentation in the CAWS, particularly in the Upper
- 8 Dresden Island Pool unpreventable and irreversible?
- 9 And do you have data to support this conclusion?
- 10 A. Well, my conclusion is based generally
- on the fact that this is a highly urbanized
- environment in which this water body is located.
- 13 And in highly urbanized industrial areas; riparian
- zones are typically very small but they're
- 15 nonexistent. You also have a large amount of
- impervious area, and also where there's going to be
- 17 significant contributions from CSOs and from
- 18 nonpoint source runoff into the waterway. And at
- 19 this juncture, I'm not aware of anyone who has a
- solution or means of preventing input of sediments
- 21 into the waterways. Now grant it that TARP is
- certainly moving in the right direction, but I don't
- think it's going to solve all the problems. And I
- 24 know from the results of the various EA studies that

- we've done over the years in this system, and I'm
- 2 not talking about sediment contamination, I'm just
- 3 talking about sediment in general. I'm talking
- 4 about the extent of the sediment is extensive, and
- 5 I'm not aware of any sedimentation removal projects
- of the size necessary to take sediment out of this
- 7 waterway, but I haven't done specific studies.
- 8 Again, it's just looking at the volume of material
- 9 that are out there. And I think also Dr. Burton
- will probably address some of the issues related to
- sediment quality, but just as far as the quantity is
- concerned, we haven't seen any evidence in the 20
- 13 plus years that we've been working that
- 14 sedimentation is getting any better.
- Q. Question 40: You mentioned that
- 16 contaminated sediments exist in all three
- navigational pools. Do you have evidence that more
- recent sediment that is being deposited is more or
- 19 less contaminated?
- A. Well, I think this question should be
- 21 addressed to Dr. Burton.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, if you don't
- mind, Dr. Burton specifically looked at those
- issues. Mr. Seegert really did not.

- MS. DIERS: So Dr. Burton would be the
- more appropriate witness to ask how the
- 3 samples were collected and --
- 4 MS. FRANZETTI: Yes.
- 5 MS. DIERS: Thanks.
- 6 MS. FRANZETTI: Now, Mr. Vondruska
- 7 could have still been here, but he did have
- 8 to pick up his children from school. He
- 9 might have been able to handle that part
- 10 because he was, I believe -- wasn't he a
- member of the field team?
- MR. SEEGERT: Yes, he was part.
- MS. FRANZETTI: But we'll cover it.
- We'll make sure he is at least here when
- Dr. Burton testifies, okay?
- MS. DIERS: All right. Thank you.
- 17 BY MS. DIERS:
- 18 Q. I think we've already addressed 41, so
- 19 42. Please define excess sediment as you use the
- term near the bottom of Page 4 of your testimony.
- A. Okay. Excess means more than you
- 22 expect in a healthy stream. What I'll do is try to
- provide a frame of reference; that the QHEI talks
- 24 about the amount of sediment, and it

- 1 characterizes -- I think it has five classes:
- 2 Severe, moderate, normal, minimal. Maybe it's four
- 3 classes. And it asks the people doing the
- 4 evaluation basically -- to say is the amount of
- 5 sediment that's in a particular stream about what
- 6 you'd expect. Is it normal? Which means the people
- doing it have to be experienced, they have to, in
- 8 their mind, have an idea of how much silt you would
- 9 normally expect. The other -- but they do give some
- 10 additional guidance. They say when you expect silt
- to be normal, the fast water areas, the riffle areas
- 12 are going to be essentially silt free. So a normal
- 13 stream would not have any silt and riffles. And
- then what you'd see along the edges would be, the
- word they use is a fine coating. So there's a
- little bit of silt in these shallow depositional
- areas, but not anything more. And if you see either
- sediments in appreciable amounts in the riffles or
- 19 along the shore, that would be more than normal, and
- then they make some differentiations between
- 21 moderate and severe.
- Q. I'm going to strike 43, 44. With
- respect to 45, I'm just going to ask the question at
- the end. Are you saying that no streams in urban

- 1 areas are capable of meeting Clean Water Act Aquatic
- 2 Life Goals?
- MS. SEEGERT: You're on the very
- 4 last --
- MS. DIERS: Yes. On 45.
- THE WITNESS: No. There could be
- streams in urban areas that could achieve
- aquatic life goals, but as a general
- 9 proposition, they don't. That's not to say
- there isn't -- There aren't some streams
- somewhere that could. But based on the
- studies that have been done, it's basically
- you've got two strikes against you if you're
- in a highly urbanized area as far as Clean
- Water Act goal attainment.
- 16 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. Would that be true looking at large
- 18 streams?
- 19 A. I'm sorry. What was the question?
- Q. When we were talking about streams
- when I asked you do you mean that no streams in
- urban areas are capable of meeting Clean Water Act
- 23 Aquatic Life Goals, you said there's a possibility
- where that could happen. Could it happen on large

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Page 97
 1
     streams?
 2
            Α.
                   Yes.
 3
                   MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, if I can,
            just for clarity, do you consider this a
 5
            large stream?
 6
                   HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Which
 7
            "this"?
 8
                   MS. FRANZETTI: Let's say Upper
 9
            Dresden Island Pool.
10
                   MR. SEEGERT: I don't consider it a
11
            large river, no.
12
                   MS. FRANZETTI: Same answer for the
13
            ship canal?
14
                   MR. SEEGERT: Yes. From there on up
15
            it gets progressively smaller, so.
16
                   MS. DIERS: Forty-six. And I guess
17
            first is this question for Greg or should
18
            we --
19
                   MS. FRANZETTI: I'm sorry. I'm not
20
            looking down. 46?
21
                   MS. DIERS: We're still talking about
22
            sediment.
23
                   MS. FRANZETTI: He can respond to
```

this. Thank you for asking.

24

| 1  | MS. DIERS: Forty-six, explain your            |
|----|---|
| 2  | statement on Page 5 of your prefiled          |
| 3  | testimony where you state that deleterious    |
| 4  | sedimentation in the CAWS is both             |
| 5  | unpreventable and irreversible and will       |
| 6  | remain a major impediment to biological       |
| 7  | improvements. What makes it unpreventable?    |
| 8  | I guess we can start there. I can break it    |
| 9  | down.   |
| 10 | THE WITNESS: Okay. To answer those            |
| 11 | first two questions                           |
| 12 | MS. DIERS: Unpreventable and                  |
| 13 | irreversible?                                 |
| 14 | MR. SEEGERT: Right. Well, no, and             |
| 15 | yeah, unpreventable and much of the           |
| 16 | sediment comes from nonpoint sources. And we  |
| 17 | witnessed a good example of that during our   |
| 18 | recent habitat survey.                        |
| 19 | MS. FRANZETTI: What year, Greg?               |
| 20 | Recent?                                       |
| 21 | MR. SEEGERT: The 2008. So in                  |
| 22 | attachment 2B for river mile 82.5 right bank, |
| 23 | that's how it's labeled in Attachment 2B,     |
| 24 | that photograph shows an area, a big pile of  |

1 bare dirt right along the edge of the river. 2 And we wondered what was going on, so we 3 stopped the boat, got out, walked up above, 4 up the side of the bank, and there was an 5 area that was being graded. And I don't know 6 if they're -- they're doing some sort of development. I don't know if it's commercial 8 or what, but some kind of development. 9 it had an area, I'm guessing, of 50 acres or 10 so completely scoured, no vegetation, and 11 they had attempted to put some silt fences in 12 the area, but the silt fences were all gone. 13 So anything from that 50 acre site was going 14 to get funneled right through that about 100 15 foot wide section, and that's just one 16 example of what goes on in a system like this 17 on a regular basis. And the reason then this 18 is essentially unpreventable is that 19 unfortunately Illinois EPA has very little 20 control over this sort of thing, so it just 21 keeps going on. They don't have the rules to 22 handle nonpoint source. 23 MR. ETTINGER: Well --

MS. FRANZETTI:

Excuse me.

Let him

24

|    | Page 100                                      |
|----|---|
| 1  | finish his answer.                            |
| 2  | MR. ETTINGER: Go on. I'm sorry. Are           |
| 3  | you finished?                                 |
| 4  | MS. FRANZETTI: No. He's not.                  |
| 5  | MR. SEEGERT: So and also in an urban          |
| 6  | area there's a very high percentage of        |
| 7  | impervious surface area. So, again, whatever  |
| 8  | sediment comes into the system gets washed    |
| 9  | off and finds its way to the waterway. So,    |
| 10 | again, the actual loading might not be        |
| 11 | well, probably are not as much as they are in |
| 12 | the downstate agricultural areas. But in      |
| 13 | this case whatever sediment does come in gets |
| 14 | washed off and finds its way into the         |
| 15 | waterway.                                     |
| 16 | HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Mr. Seegert,         |
| 17 | for the record, Attachment 2B to your         |
| 18 | testimony, correct?                           |
| 19 | MR. SEEGERT: Yes.                             |
| 20 | HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: And the area         |
| 21 | that you were talking about, the construction |
| 22 | area, is that on Page 19?                     |
| 23 | MR. SEEGERT: Well, it's river I               |
| 24 | don't have the                                |

1 MR. SEEGERT: No, I'm not.

MR. ETTINGER: Thank you.

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3 For clarification, MS. FRANZETTI: 4 when you were talking about in your answer 5 the nonpoint source pollution due to the 6 amount of impervious area, that was a 7 separate factor that we're talking in terms 8 of the source of the sedimentation or 9 sediments entering this waterway from this 10 factor where construction activities go on 11 because of development in the area of this

waterway; is that correct?

MR. SEEGERT: That's correct. So
there's going to be run-off that's nonpoint
source. I'm not familiar with the
regulations as to know how this is regulated.
I look at this and say water coming from -not from a -- not in the way I think of it as
not a point source, whether it is regulated
or not regulated, whether they have to get a
permit to do this or not. I'm not familiar
with that.

MR. ETTINGER: I think we can go on, but you're not testifying here today as an

- expert in the Clean Water Act or its controls
- over any form?
- MS. FRANZETTI: I think for the most
- 4 part that's right, Counsel, except that I
- 5 would say that from his work on the UAA
- factors, that I think he could qualify as an
- 7 expert in terms of review and application of
- 8 the UAA factors to this waterway.
- 9 MR. SEEGERT: And I mean I should,
- since you brought up the question, there are
- parts of the Clean Water Act that -- like
- Sections 316A and 316B that I would consider
- myself an expert in.
- MR. ETTINGER: Okay.
- 15 BY MS. DIERS:
- 16 Q. I think we did the unpreventable,
- irreversible. I'm not sure if we got to where I
- left off. Where is the deleterious sedimentation
- 19 coming from?
- A. Well, I mean I believe I've answered
- 21 that. My response would be from various impervious
- areas, it's coming from CSOs, it's coming from the
- 23 kind of thing referred to in the photographs. So
- 24 it's kind of from a variety of sources, all of which

- 1 I think come under the general category
- 2 urbanization. It's what you see in an urban area.
- You have a lot of run-off.
- 4 Q. I'm going strike the rest of the
- 5 question and go to 47.
- 6 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Let's take
- about five minutes here and we can come back
- and we'll shoot for going until
- 9 5:00 o'clock.
- 10 (Short break taken.)
- 11 BY MS. DIERS:
- 12 Q. I'm going to strike 47, 48, and 49 and
- 13 go to 50.
- MS. FRANZETTI: I'm sorry. I'm going
- to be a bugaboo here just on one. I think it
- would be helpful to have it as part of
- Mr. Seegert's testimony. So if you don't
- mind, I am going to just ask one part of your
- 19 Question 46 that you did not ask. And that
- is do you agree, Mr. Seegert, that the
- deposition of new sediments has decreased
- over time?
- MR. SEEGERT: Well, we partly
- addressed that. And when I said I didn't

1 think there was any change that we've 2 observed over time, and one specific piece of 3 evidence that I could point to was something I also mentioned earlier which was in both 5 2008, 2003, the percentage of sites that we looked at and classified using the OHEI and 7 the sites that we called moderate or severe 8 was 70 percent. The identical percentage 9 both times, both time periods. So in that 10 case, there's a five-year period, 2003 to 11 2008 where at least just looking at sediment 12 quantity there was absolutely no change 13 whatsoever in the amount of sediment between 14 2003 and 2008. So based on that plus our own 15 anecdotal observations, I would say no, it's

17 BY MS. DIERS:

not decreasing.

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Q. Question 50: On Page 6 you state that
extensive studies of the nearby Fox River funded in
part by U.S. EPA documented significant and
wide-spread adverse impacts on the aquatic
communities due to the effects of impounding. Is it
your testimony that these extensive studies

concluded these impoundments are irreversible and

- should Illinois be promoting dam removal as you
- point out on Page 12 of Exhibit 2 which is occurring
- 3 in Wisconsin and Michigan?
- 4 A. I think there are three separate
- 5 questions there. It's been a while since I've
- 6 looked at it, but I don't believe the Fox River
- 7 studies address the question of or included any
- 8 findings regarding whether the impacts from
- 9 impoundments were or were not reversible. In other
- words, they documented what they saw, but they
- didn't reach any conclusions as to whether or not
- 12 they were reversible. As far as the second question
- is concerned, I would say from a biological
- 14 integrity standpoint, just from that standpoint, dam
- removal would generally be a good thing, but there
- 16 are other factors that someone would need to
- 17 consider before they recommend a dam be removed or
- not be removed. And then as far as the question, I
- think the last one was about should -- I'm sorry.
- 20 Was Illinois -- should they be promoting? I'm not
- 21 sure what Illinois should or shouldn't be doing. I
- think, again, you would have to look on the broad
- 23 context. I tend to look at things in an ecological
- 24 perspective, and I think generally that dam and

- 1 removing dams is probably a pretty good thing. But
- I think you'd have to look at each situation
- 3 individually. There are a number of dams that no
- 4 longer serve an effective function. They might have
- been an old mill dam from 100 years ago. They could
- 6 probably be removed and it really wouldn't affect
- 7 anyone. On the other hand, there are places
- 8 where -- There's development all the way around, and
- 9 if you take it back just the natural course of the
- river, people used to have waterfront property, now
- don't have waterfront property. So there are other
- 12 factors that would need to be considered.
- Q. I'm going to go to 52 right here.
- 14 Explain why you conclude on Page 7 that the impacts
- on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and Upper
- Dresden Island Pool from dams is irreversible?
- A. Well, this is fairly easy. I mean
- unless you remove the dam, the reach is going to
- 19 continue to be impounded. And all the attendant
- 20 effects that I talked about before are still going
- to be present. And I'm not aware of any plans to
- 22 move the dams in the system. And given the fact
- that navigation is, as I understand it, a protected
- use, I don't think that they would be able to

- 1 remove -- move the dam. So as far as I'm concerned,
- 2 those dams are going to have to stay.
- Q. Just jumping back a second. When we
- 4 were talking about the Fox River, do you know how
- 5 many dams are on the Fox River?
- A. No, I don't.
- 7 Q. I'm going to go back to 51. You
- 8 testified that the Brandon Pool is 100 percent
- 9 impounded and the Dresden Pool is 93 percent
- impounded. Are the upper and lower Dresden included
- in these figures, and where did the figures come
- 12 from?
- 13 A. Okay. For Dresden Pool, the
- 93 percent, we talked about this a little bit
- before. Based on our estimates, the upper -- only
- the upper one mile of Dresden Pool, and I'm
- including both upper and lower, that the pool is 14
- miles long. Only the upper part is free-flowing,
- which means 13 miles free-flowing, divide 13 by 14
- and you get 93 percent.
- With regard to Brandon Pool, there
- is no tail water below the Lockport Lock and Dam, so
- that's 100 percent. The Brandon Pool is only about
- five miles long, and it's all impounded.

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1 Q. I'm going to strike 53 and go to 54.
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- 2 Have you concluded that factor 5 applies throughout
- 3 the CAWS and Lower Des Plaines?
- MS. FRANZETTI: And now for this
- 5 question, Lower Des Plaines --
- 6 MS. DIERS: I had -- I was going to
- 7 ask him to clarify the Lower Des Plaines
- 8 area.
- 9 MS. FRANZETTI: All right. I think
- when you were applying factor 5, weren't you
- looking at 55? So first clarify that.
- MR. SEEGERT: Well, for factor 5, the
- areas that we looked at, we talked about this
- at the very, very beginning of this
- afternoon's session was I'm talking about the
- south branch, the Chicago River, all of
- the -- all of the ship canal and all of the
- Lower Des Plaines River which includes four
- miles of Brandon Pool and eight miles of
- Upper Dresden Island Pool. So within the
- areas I've just mentioned, factor 5 applies.
- 22 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. I'm going to skip 55.
- A. They would all apply to Brandon Pool

- because it has the same limitations as the rest of
- 2 the ship canal.
- Q. And 56, did you rely on any data to
- 4 conclude that factor 5 is applicable?
- 5 A. As I believe was mentioned earlier, we
- 6 collected QHEI data in previous years. I think '93,
- 7 '94, 2003, and then most recently in 2008. So all
- 8 of that information is information that we relied
- 9 upon.
- 10 Q. And then did you compare this data to
- other impounded rivers?
- MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, I'm not sure.
- Did he compare the QHEI data from Upper
- Dresden Island Pool and Ship Canal to other
- rivers for what purpose?
- MS. DIERS: I'm sorry. Can you say
- that again? I lost my train of thought.
- MS. FRANZETTI: I'm not following the
- 19 question. Because he talked about relying on
- QHEI data from three separate efforts, I'll
- 21 call them, '93, '94, 2003, 2008. And then
- you said did you compare that QHEI data to
- other rivers. And I'm not sure where that
- goes.

MS. DIERS: I meant other impounded rivers. I don't know if that helps clarify my question.

MS. FRANZETTI: For what purpose? To see if the QHEI values were comparable as between ship canal, Upper Dresden Island Pool, and some other impounded river?

MS. DIERS: Yes. I think that's -MS. FRANZETTI: The answer may be no,

he didn't do any comparison, but I'm just not

11 sure.

MR. SEEGERT: Well, the question isn't -- or looking at other impounded rivers isn't relevant. It's not what the question is. The question is relative to habitat in rivers, free-flowing rivers, how does this stack up? If you would do what you're implying is you'd say, how does the crappy habitat in this system compare to crappy habitat in other systems? That's not what the QHEI is designed to do. It's designed to establish basically a reference condition and say in a reference condition you have a variety of physical constraints, and you want

to know whether this system or the Rock River 1 2 or any other river, regardless of whether it 3 has impounded, has barges, doesn't have barges, how it stacks up against what a river should be; because it's those characteristics 6 that make the river good. And you just want to know how good can this particular series of segments be relative to rivers in general, not other impounded rivers.

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MS. WILLIAMS: I think that -- Can I do a follow-up? I think that's fine as an explanation of what QHEI does. But this question, you said the QHEI data was part of what you used to conclude that factor five, which is physical conditions related to the natural features of the water body such as lack of proper substrate cover, flow, depth, pools, riffles and the like unrelated to water quality preclude attainment of aquatic life types of uses. So I think it's fair then to ask are the QHEI scores in the Upper Dresden Island Pool significantly different than another impounded river that would be capable of attaining Clean Water Act goals

|    | rage 113                                      |
|----|---|
| 1  | such as general use water bodies in Illinois. |
| 2  | MR. SEEGERT: Well, you have at least          |
| 3  | two errors in that question. The fact         |
| 4  | There's the general presumption that other    |
| 5  | impounded rivers in Illinois attain Clean     |
| 6  | Water Act goals. The rivers in Illinois were  |
| 7  | assigned general use basically by default.    |
| 8  | No one went in and did a structured study,    |
| 9  | looking to see whether or not they're good,   |
| 10 | bad, or indifferent. Somebody, I don't know   |
| 11 | whom, probably some bureaucrat waved a magic  |
| 12 | wand and said                                 |
| 13 | MS. FRANZETTI: Easy, easy.                    |
| 14 | MEMBER MOORE: There's a lot of                |
| 15 | bureaucrats in this room.                     |
| 16 | MS. FRANZETTI: Danger.                        |
| 17 | MS. WILLIAMS: Let him answer, Susan.          |
| 18 | MR. SEEGERT: No. But somebody                 |
| 19 | somewhere decided they were general use.      |
| 20 | They didn't go through the structured         |
| 21 | assessment that we have that we're trying to  |
| 22 | make here. So we don't know how any of those  |
| 23 | other systems, we don't know if there are any |
| 24 | other impounded water bodies in Illinois      |

UAA. So nobody would do QHEI scores?

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MR. SEEGERT: Right. But in this case it's the chicken and the egg. You're assuming that it's fishable/swimmable because somebody wrote down on a piece of paper that it was general use. And I'm saying nobody had a basis, an objective scientific basis for concluding that the Rock or Iroquois or any other river was fishable/swimmable as defined in part of Clean Water Act goals. Illinois just hasn't gone through that Most states are not -- having indictment against Illinois. Most states haven't. Most states said, jeez, we want to show that our rivers are great. And so we're going to call them general use or some other category. EPA, U.S. EPA has basically come back to the states and said prove it. this to us. And now we're going to have to go through and look at a lot of individual water bodies, and I'm sure you will find some in Illinois -- I mean I'll offer up the Kankakee. The Kankakee is partly impounded, but given the small amount of impoundment, I

|    | Page 11                                       |
|----|---|
| 1  | would expect that it meets Clean Water Act    |
| 2  | goals. But I don't know that for certain      |
| 3  | because no one has done a UAA type assessment |
| 4  | of the Kankakee River.                        |
| 5  | MR. ETTINGER: Have you looked at the          |
| 6  | portion of the Kankakee that was impounded?   |
| 7  | MR. SEEGERT: Yes.                             |
| 8  | MR. ETTINGER: Does that portion of            |
| 9  | the Kankakee have a balanced fishery?         |
| 10 | MR. SEEGERT: The area immediately             |
| 11 | upstream of the dam in Wilmington, I would    |
| 12 | say, probably does not, but that's a very     |
| 13 | limited area.                                 |
| 14 | MR. ETTINGER: What about the area             |
| 15 | upstream of the Dresden Island                |
| 16 | MS. FRANZETTI: I couldn't hear you.           |
| 17 | What about the area?                          |
| 18 | MR. ETTINGER: What about the area             |
| 19 | upstream of the Dresden Island Lock and Dam   |
| 20 | in the Kankakee?                              |
| 21 | MR. SEEGERT: We haven't looked at the         |
| 22 | entire part that's impounded. The part that   |
| 23 | we have looked at I would say probably does   |
| 24 | not meet Clean Water Act goals.               |

|    | Page 117                                      |
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| 1  | MR. ETTINGER: And where did you look          |
| 2  | at that?                                      |
| 3  | MR. SEEGERT: It's within roughly the          |
| 4  | lower one mile. Unfortunately, Mr. Vondruska  |
| 5  | is not here. He could give you chapter and    |
| 6  | verse, but I know we have two locations in    |
| 7  | the extreme lower part of the Kankakee. But   |
| 8  | sitting here today, I can't say exactly where |
| 9  | they are.                                     |
| 10 | MS. WILLIAMS: I need to get back to           |
| 11 | this idea that no one has looked at the other |
| 12 | impounded rivers. Is that okay?               |
| 13 | MR. SEEGERT: Sure.                            |
| 14 | MS. WILLIAMS: Are you familiar with           |
| 15 | the 305(b) report and the 303(d) list?        |
| 16 | MS. FRANZETTI: Which year.                    |
| 17 | MS. WILLIAMS: The concept of such a           |
| 18 | report.                                       |
| 19 | MS. FRANZETTI: And also referred to           |
| 20 | at times as the impaired water study.         |
| 21 | MR. SEEGERT: I guess the answer               |
| 22 | the answer is I'm aware of them. I wouldn't   |
| 23 | say I'm familiar with them.                   |
| 24 | MS. WILLIAMS: Is it your                      |

| 1  | MS. WILLIAMS: I think he's implied           |
|----|--|
| 2  | that unless you've done a UAA you couldn't   |
| 3  | possibly know if Clean Water Act goals are   |
| 4  | attainable. And I'm asking him whether there |
| 5  | are impounded rivers in Illinois that are    |
| 6  | currently attaining those goals because they |
| 7  | are studied through that process, otherwise  |
| 8  | they would have to be put on the 303(d) list |
| 9  | MS. FRANZETTI: And by that process,          |
| 10 | the what process are that's what I'm         |
| 11 | asking. What process are you referring to?   |
| 12 | Something other than the UAA process?        |
| 13 | MS. WILLIAMS: The use assessment             |
| 14 | process, aquatic life use assessment process |
| 15 | MS. FRANZETTI: That the Agency is            |
| 16 | saying it conducted when it is doing its     |
| 17 | 305(b) 303(d) list?                          |
| 18 | MS. WILLIAMS: Correct.                       |
| 19 | MS. FRANZETTI: I'm not sure you can          |
| 20 | establish that with this witness because of  |
| 21 | his lack of any familiarity detailed         |
| 22 | familiarity with what you all do to prepare  |
| 23 | that list.                                   |
| 24 | MS. WILLIAMS: But if he can try to           |

answer it.

MR. SEEGERT: Based on what admittedly

is a limited understanding in that process, I

don't think that process is rigorous enough

to lead to an accurate determination as to

whether or not there's true attainment.

MS. WILLIAMS: So you think that waters in Illinois that are not placed on the 303(b) list may actually be impaired for the Clean Water Act?

MR. SEEGERT: I would be very
surprised if they're not. And I mean let me
say one other thing kind of related. I know
that the State doesn't have -- they don't
have a -- we're talking about impounded
waterways, so presumably talking about at
least some larger water bodies. The State
doesn't even have a fish IBI to assess those
large water bodies. If they don't have a
tool, how could they possibly accurately
assess it, assess such water bodies?

MS. WILLIAMS: I think I'm finished

with this line. We can move on.

24 BY MS. DIERS:

- Q. Fifty-seven: Do all natural large
- 2 rivers have riffle run segments in each sampling
- 3 reach or are some rivers predominated by pool and
- 4 other nonriffle habitats? And I'll just break it up
- 5 there. I'll just stop there and ask the remaining
- 6 questions.
- 7 A. Okay. First, as I mentioned before, I
- 8 wouldn't characterize the Des Plaines River as a
- 9 large river. And -- But in -- then as a follow-up,
- 10 rivers the size of Des Plaines and ones that are
- even considerably larger have some amount of riffle
- 12 run habitat. I've already mentioned the Fox, the
- 13 Kankakee, even rivers the size of the Wabash River
- in Indiana have riffle pool run sequences. They
- differ not in not having them, but how far apart
- they are, but they have them.
- Q. What about the following question:
- 18 Are these pool and other nonriffle habitats and
- 19 factors such as cover then the determining factors
- 20 for fish species diversity?
- A. Well, as I said, these -- all of the
- 22 water bodies you're referring to will have riffle
- run segments, so, you know, the premise of that
- question is will something else be the determining

- 1 factor? And I'm saying no, that it's going to be
- 2 the -- it's the collective habitat of which riffle
- 3 run is part of it, but pools and other areas are
- 4 also part of it.

5 MR. ETTINGER: How close do the riffle

frun segments have to be to each other?

7 MR. SEEGERT: Well, as rivers get

larger, you have more -- a higher and higher

9 percentage of fishes that are not necessarily

highly migratory, but which kind of, I'll

say, wander around. That's not very

scientific, but basically do wander around a

lot. So what happens is they end up in these

areas. I'll give you an example. On the

Wabash River, there's a decent riffle in the

middle Wabash roughly every 20 miles, and

then when you get into that riffle habitat,

you have this really, really diverse fish

community. Then you have this intervening

20 15, 18 miles which is kind of ho-hum. It's

got bass and blue gills and a lot of other

things, but it doesn't have the thing that

depend on the riffle. So one way or the

other, the fishes that depend on the riffles

| 1  | are able to find them even when they're       |
|----|---|
| 2  | spread out like in that example roughly 20    |
| 3  | miles apart. And another example is I've      |
| 4  | worked on the lower Missouri. The Missouri    |
| 5  | River is obviously one of the largest rivers  |
| 6  | in the country. There's a place called        |
| 7  | Pelican Island that's basically on the        |
| 8  | outskirts of St. Louis. There's a big riffle  |
| 9  | shole complex there, it's more of a shole     |
| 10 | than a riffle, but the water flows rapidly    |
| 11 | over these hard substrates, and that thing is |
| 12 | just jammed with fish that are otherwise      |
| 13 | unusual in most of the Missouri River. Some   |
| 14 | people think that the Missouri River is very  |
| 15 | turbid and not supporting smaller fishes that |
| 16 | require this kind of habitat, but even on a   |
| 17 | river the size of the Mississippi, you still  |
| 18 | have that component. It's still there.        |
| 19 | HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Missouri.            |
| 20 | MR. SEEGERT: I'm sorry, in the                |
| 21 | Missouri.                                     |
| 22 | MR. ETTINGER: So the Big Mighty has a         |
| 23 | few good spots and that's enough to enable it |
|    |   |

to overcome its sediment over the rest?

MR. SEEGERT: I didn't say that at all.

MS. FRANZETTI: Albert said that.

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MR. SEEGERT: And what happens, again, you're dealing with -- you have to -- you have to think about what are the expectations. The expectations for the Missouri River are very different because now we're talking about a very large -- by definition a lot of people now call those great rivers. They say the Ohio, the Mississippi, and the Missouri are great And now you have to look at the box rivers. for your expectation in that kind of system. And so in that kind of system, one of the things you want to see are what we call big river chubs. The mackerel hypoxis chub we like to see. We like to see them. And they hang out in those areas and -- but they can hone in on a few areas so that overall the Missouri River gets its quota of what I would call the big river chubs. But most of the rest of it has a different set of expectations. But you collectively they all

- go in to assessing what should be there.
- That's really what you're trying to do.
- 3 You're saying, well, what should be there and
- 4 how far does the system deviate from what
- should be there and what's preventing it from
- 6 going from where it is to where it should be?
- 7 And I'm saying in this system, it's the
- 8 habitat that is -- and all these things that
- 9 are part of it that's preventing it from
- going where it is to where we would all like
- it to be.

12 CHAIRMAN GIRARD: Could I ask a

question then? How do you decide what should

be in a system that's 70 percent manmade?

MR. SEEGERT: Well, you basically have

to lower the bar. And actually the Agency, I

think, is -- they're on the right track in

the sense that they came up with three

categories: An A, a B, and an Upper Dresden

Island Pool use. And then you said Upper

Dresden Island Pool use should include all

the kinds of fishes that represent a

balanced -- they didn't use that word, but

you have tolerance, moderately tolerance, and

- intolerance. They're saying it's got this
- whole gamut. And then as you get further and
- further away from that, then eventually when
- 4 you get to Class B that's dominated by
- 5 tolerance. And so you look at what the
- expectations are and say, well, what could
- 7 live here. And if the answer is because of
- habitat or other limitations, only tolerant
- 9 species or predominantly tolerant, then
- that's how you would set up the use,
- basically as they did for Class B. I'm not
- saying that it's a perfect class, but
- conceptually that makes perfect sense. You
- basically say where do I need to set the bar,
- and then you set the bar accordingly.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Does that answer your
- 17 question?
- 18 CHAIRMAN GIRARD: Thank you. That was
- a general question.
- HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Miss Diers?
- 21 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. I think we're on Question 58. Do you
- foresee some limited restoration short of removing
- the locks and dams that could enhance the Upper

- 1 Dresden Island Pool? For example, could restoration
- of littoral areas increase habitat heterogeneity and
- 3 create habitat that could support some of the
- species associated with waters that attain the Clean
- 5 Water Act aquatic-life goal?
- 6 MS. FRANZETTI: Did you purposely drop
- 7 the minimally attained?
- MS. DIERS: I don't like that word,
- 9 but --
- MS. FRANZETTI: No. That's why I'm
- asking, because the witness has some issues,
- too, with what the heck does that mean.
- MS. DIERS: I don't like that word,
- 14 so.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Okay. Fine. So
- you're not asking it with the minimally, just
- water that has attained the Clean Water Act
- goals.
- MS. WILLIAMS: I like it better than
- 20 marginally.
- MR. SEEGERT: Okay. Well, first of
- all, what would limited restoration consist
- of? Give me some examples.
- MS. DIERS: I thought the second part

of the question I did ask. For example,

could restoration of the littoral areas. Did

that help with the first part?

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MR. SEEGERT: Okay. We've heard some testimony to the -- for example, from Dr. Thomas to the effect that, yeah, we could increase cover, we could do some other things and that would lead towards obtainment of aquatic-life goals. I don't see it that way. Again, the problem is that the littoral zones, and by that I take it you're talking about the near shore areas along river? That's not where the limitation is. Okay. The limitation is in these fast water shallow areas; i.e., riffles. Think of this as -the limitation is the lack of riffles. think of the analogy of the chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Our weak link here is riffle. You can improve those other areas just like you could strengthen the other links in the chain, but the chain still breaks unless you fix the weakest link. is not going to affect the weakest link. why is that? Well, that's because you've

|    | 1490 123                                      |
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| 1  | indicated that in Upper Dresden Pool,         |
| 2  | according to your definition, you want to see |
| 3  | all the species, you want to see not only     |
| 4  | tolerant, not only moderately tolerant, you   |
| 5  | want to see intolerant species. Those         |
| 6  | intolerant species, most of them, a           |
| 7  | disproportionate number of them, need and     |
| 8  | inhabit riffle areas. If you don't have       |
| 9  | riffle areas, you're not going to bring in    |
| 10 | that part of the fish community. So           |
| 11 | enhancing things along the shore line, yes,   |
| 12 | you might have more bass and you might have   |
| 13 | more blue gills, but you're not going to get  |
| 14 | the balanced fish community that you're       |
| 15 | saying is part of your definition.            |
| 16 | MR. ETTINGER: Only God can make a             |
| 17 | riffle?                                       |
| 18 | MS. FRANZETTI: Objection to form,             |
| 19 | Counsel.                                      |
| 20 | MR. ETTINGER: Is it possible to make          |
| 21 | a riffle?                                     |
| 22 | MR. SEEGERT: In a system that's               |
| 23 | with the lack of gradient, I don't know. I    |
| 24 | assume engineers could do it if you gave them |

|    | Page 130                                      |
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| 1  | enough money, infinite time and money they    |
| 2  | probably could construct a riffle.            |
| 3  | MR. ETTINGER: But you've never been           |
| 4  | involved in the construction of a riffle and  |
| 5  | you don't know how much it would cost?        |
| 6  | MR. SEEGERT: I've been involved in            |
| 7  | small stream restoration, have in idea what   |
| 8  | they cost, and given the size of this system, |
| 9  | again, you're talking about major, major      |
| 10 | dollars here.                                 |
| 11 | MR. ETTINGER: Well, what do you mean          |
| 12 | by major, major dollars?                      |
| 13 | MR. SEEGERT: Pardon?                          |
| 14 | MR. ETTINGER: What do you mean by             |
| 15 | major, major dollars?                         |
| 16 | MR. SEEGERT: I think we're talking at         |
| 17 | least in the tens of millions, probably the   |
| 18 | hundreds of millions, and that's even if it   |
| 19 | could be done. Again, given you only have     |
| 20 | so much gradient to work from. Basically you  |
| 21 | have to raise the water up, shoot it down     |
| 22 | through a riffle. I don't know that this      |
| 23 | even could be done. Maybe there's some        |
|    |   |

massive engineering project that could be,

|    | Page 131                                      |
|----|---|
| 1  | but even if it is because of the scale, all   |
| 2  | the restoration studies that I've been aware  |
| 3  | of on relatively small, relatively small      |
| 4  | systems, right now the city of San Antonio    |
| 5  | wants to restore eight miles of the Colorado  |
| 6  | River. The price tag that they've assigned    |
| 7  | to restore eight miles of the Colorado river  |
| 8  | is \$240 million.                             |
| 9  | MR. ETTINGER: What town?                      |
| 10 | MR. SEEGERT: San Antonio.                     |
| 11 | MR. ETTINGER: California River goes           |
| 12 | through San Antonio?                          |
| 13 | MR. SEEGERT: Yes, it does.                    |
| 14 | MR. ETTINGER: Texas?                          |
| 15 | MR. SEEGERT: Texas.                           |
| 16 | MR. ETTINGER: Okay.                           |
| 17 | MR. SEEGERT: And that's a system              |
| 18 | that's in the size ballpark, actually, I mean |
| 19 | having collected fish in it, if anything it's |
| 20 | larger. The drainage area is certainly        |
| 21 | larger. We're talking about here not a heck   |
| 22 | of a lot larger, but it's in the ballpark.    |
| 23 | So when you get into talking about systems of |
| 24 | this size, talking about tens or hundreds of  |

millions of dollars, if it can be done at all.

MS. WILLIAMS: I'm trying to
understand, Mr. Seegert, didn't you testify
earlier that you don't know whether the Lower
Des Plaines River would have riffles in the
absence of the impoundments? Is that what
you testified earlier, Greg? If the dams
were gone, do you know if there would have
been riffles or not?

HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: I believe he you compared it with the Kankakee.

MR. SEEGERT: Well, what I said was I would expect that if a 14-mile section that you probably would have a riffle based on the riffle distant sequence that I've seen in other areas. And then one of you followed up and said, well, what about in Upper Dresden Pool. And at that point I said, well, I'm not sure within upper, just in Upper Dresden Pool whether there would or would not be.

MS. WILLIAMS: Because it's very low grading, correct?

MR. SEEGERT: Well, again, I'm not

|    | rage 13.                                      |
|----|---|
| 1  | sure of the exact it's low grading. I         |
| 2  | don't know if it's very low grading.          |
| 3  | MS. WILLIAMS: Would you expect that a         |
| 4  | low gradient river of the size of Upper       |
| 5  | Dresden Island, you know, size meaning not    |
| 6  | the length Upper Dresden Island Pool, but     |
| 7  | that size of a river, would have different    |
| 8  | fish assemblages than a high gradient river?  |
| 9  | MR. SEEGERT: Well, you'd have to              |
| 10 | be Again, now, we're talking about low        |
| 11 | versus high, and I don't know what you mean   |
| 12 | by low or high.                               |
| 13 | MS. WILLIAMS: I want to understand if         |
| 14 | it's necessary to have high gradient and lots |
| 15 | of riffles to attain Clean Water Act goals in |
| 16 | your opinion.                                 |
| 17 | MR. SEEGERT: Well, let me try to              |
| 18 | answer it a different way. Because that       |
| 19 | MS. FRANZETTI: I would say, Counsel,          |
| 20 | that he has answered that question.           |
| 21 | MS. WILLIAMS: Well, I don't                   |
| 22 | understand.                                   |
| 23 | MS. FRANZETTI: In his prior testimony         |
| 24 | with respect to the Missouri, for example.    |
|    |   |

But I'm, you know --

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MS. WILLIAMS: Was it yes or no? I don't know.

MR. SEEGERT: Okay. Well, let's use Ohio as our example, because they've done more of this assessment than any of the other midwestern states. So we're not talking about the Rocky Mountains that have really high gradient. And Ohio doesn't make a distinction. They don't -- they don't say, okay, this river is low gradient, therefore, it's not going to attain. They look at an -the overall condition within that ecoregion, said this is what rivers, and this ecoregion of Ohio should attain. They don't say low gradient and high gradient, they say just And they break in their class rivers. boatable. We talked about -- We heard testimony months ago on boatable. And the only place they make an exception is in the Erie Lake Plane where they say there's been so much channelization that basically they've discounted everything and made almost everything up there modified. But everywhere else in the state, regardless of what the
gradient is, they say this is the expectation
for rivers. I don't see where this system
falls outside that general bounds of the
rivers that comprise 95 percent of Ohio.

MS. WILLIAMS: I think that makes sense. But what's troubling me is your answer to the previous question that

Ms. Diers presented was that riffles are the key to the problem in the Upper Dresden

Island Pool.

MR. SEEGERT: They are. They are the key to the problem. That's why you don't have the intolerant fish -- your problem is you've got a definition what the system won't support. If you want, you can change the definition. You can say moderately tolerant and tolerant, but then you have to go down to a lower use classification. This system is not going to attain Clean Water Act goals by any definition that I can think of.

MS. WILLIAMS: Because it --

MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, I'm going to now object to the tag-teaming. One of you

|    | 1 age 13 c                                    |
|----|---|
| 1  | should be asking the questions, and           |
| 2  | particularly given the hour. I let it go a    |
| 3  | little bit, but now I'm going to object.      |
| 4  | MS. WILLIAMS: That's fine.                    |
| 5  | MR. ETTINGER: So can I just ask would         |
| 6  | you modify the Ohio habitat method that we're |
| 7  | talking about so that if there was no riffle  |
| 8  | there should be a zero habitat score?         |
| 9  | MR. SEEGERT: I'm sorry? Did EA                |
| 10 | change that?                                  |
| 11 | MR. ETTINGER: I'm just asking would           |
| 12 | you   |
| 13 | MS. FRANZETTI: He's asking you                |
| 14 | hypothetically.                               |
| 15 | MR. ETTINGER: Hypothetically if you           |
| 16 | were going to use the Ohio model and you      |
| 17 | found you were going to look at this          |
| 18 | system and you found that there was no riffle |
| 19 | in a system, you would then automatically     |
| 20 | assign it a subfishable swimmable category?   |
| 21 | MS. FRANZETTI: Objection to the               |
| 22 | extent if you are characterizing his          |
| 23 | testimony. So I don't think you are proper    |
| 24 | when you're characterizing it.                |

|    | Page 137                                      |
|----|---|
| 1  | MR. ETTINGER: I wasn't. I asked a             |
| 2  | question, Counsel.                            |
| 3  | MS. FRANZETTI: Is the question would          |
| 4  | he modify Ohio systems?                       |
| 5  | MR. ETTINGER: Ohio has a system here,         |
| 6  | it counts riffles as one of the factors. Do   |
| 7  | we agree on that?                             |
| 8  | MR. SEEGERT: Yes.                             |
| 9  | MR. ETTINGER: Okay. Would you, if             |
| 10 | you were free to change the system, change    |
| 11 | the system such that, one, it did not have    |
| 12 | riffles it would automatically have a         |
| 13 | subfishable/swimmable rating?                 |
| 14 | MR. SEEGERT: No.                              |
| 15 | MR. ETTINGER: Why not?                        |
| 16 | MR. SEEGERT: Because riffle, although         |
| 17 | it's an important component, it's not         |
| 18 | necessarily going to be the only component.   |
| 19 | And also if so you do have to look at the     |
| 20 | habitat overall and have an understanding of  |
| 21 | what the requirements of different fishes     |
| 22 | are. There are some areas that although they  |
| 23 | might not be a riffle, which is defined as    |
| 24 | kind of a high grading area where the surface |

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is broken as opposed to a run is also high
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- gradient, but you don't have the kind of the
- white water on top. If you have enough run
- areas, decent run areas, they can, for some
- species, mainly the redhorse, can function as
- 6 riffles.
- 7 MR. ETTINGER: Go on.
- 8 BY MS. DIERS:
- 9 Q. I'm going to strike 59 and go to 60.
- On Page 8 states in 1993 and 1994,
- 11 QHEI scores were derived at 169 locations in the
- 12 Lockport, Brandon Road, and Dresden Pools and were
- on average found to be low (mean scores in the 40s),
- demonstrating that habitat generally was of poor
- 15 quality.
- A, why did you, and I'm going to
- say group the data from these four stretches to be
- included in the average?
- 19 A. Because I wanted to know on average
- what was the habitat like.
- Q. B, what was the average highest and
- lowest values of the different segments at Lockport,
- 23 Brandon Road, and Dresden Pools (above and below
- [-55]?

1 A. Okay. Let's --

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MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, just for the record, he's going to, I think, try and explain this in a bit more detail. But what the average is will vary somewhat from company to company that did the QHEI.

MS. DIERS: Okay.

MS. FRANZETTI: So I think you'll try and explain that in a little more detail giving the average -- I'm sorry -- giving the high and the low.

MR. SEEGERT: Okay. In Lockport Pool in 1993, two companies scored the QHEI. company I represent, EA, was one of those. Our average score in Lockport Pool was 44, and the other company, their average score was a 42. The range of scores that EA reported was from 31.5 to 57.5. The other company had a little bit tighter range. went from 35 to 49. And the other company was -- at that time it was ESE, and I can't even remember what that acronym stands for. They're out of St. Louis. They have a different name now. I believe it's Mach

1 Also in Lockport Pool, but now we're Tech. 2 talking about 1994, we have three 3 The two that I mentioned and contractors: another one, LMS. I do know what LMS: 5 Lawler, Matusky & Skelly. And they don't 6 exist anymore. They were bought up by 7 somebody else. And there the average score that we reported was 45 with the range of 32 9 to 56. So very similar to what we reported 10 in '93. ESE in '94 reported a little bit 11 lower scores than reported in '93, an average 12 of 41 with the range from 29 to 53.5. 13 then the third contractor, LMS, reported an 14 average of 46 with the range of 33 to 56. 15 to summarize, in all -- or in both years and 16 all three contractors, we had averages in the 17 low 40s with ranges from basically in the 30s 18 to the lower 50s. Okay. Brandon Pool in 19 '93, again, there's two companies. 20 reported an average of 54 with a range 21 basically from 50 to 65. The other company, 22 ESE, an average of 51 and range of 37 to 79. 23 Oh, and I should mention, this is important. 24 When this was done it was, of course, using

1 the version of the QHEI that was available to 2 use at that point in time. That QHEI has 3 been modified both by Ohio EPA and also 4 Mr. Yoder's group, and the result of those 5 modifications would result in a general 6 lowering of the scores compared to what they But this was done back in 1993, so we 8 use the OHEI version that was available in 9 1993. And then for Brandon Pool in '94, 10 again, it was the same two companies. We had 11 an average of about 49 with the range of 27 12 to 66. The other company had a -- I guess 13 they only did one location, because I see 14 that they had a score, an average of 35.5, 15 and there's no range. It was just 35.5. So 16 apparently they only did one location. 17 Brandon Pool. And then in Dresden Pool, and 18 in this case Dresden Pool includes both upper 19 and lower Dresden Pool, 1993 we reported an 20 average of 53 with the range of 40 to 69.5. 21 ESE reported an average of 48 in a range of 22 39.5 to 68, and -- I'm sorry. Strike that. 23 The -- I read the values from ESNE from 1994. 24 Their 1993 average was 51 with the range of

- 1 42 to 68. And then still in Dresden Pool,
- but now in 1994, we have four companies. EA
- 3 reported an average of 55 with the range of
- 40 to 69; ESE, those numbers I erroneously
- gave, 40 now for 1994, it's 48 with the range
- of 39 to 68; and the other company LMS in
- 7 1994 for Dresden Pool had an average of 49
- with a range of 42 to 56. So everyone in
- 9 Dresden Pool using the QHEI that prevailed at
- that time was scoring right around 50, a
- little plus, a little minus, but right around
- 12 50. And the occasional higher scores,
- meaning 60 or above, were consistently
- associated with either the Brandon tail
- waters or the tributary mouth locations.
- 16 BY MS. DIERS:
- 17 Q. Sixty-one: Are the habitat data
- collected by the EPA Engineering in 1993-1994 part
- of the Lower Des Plaines UAA report and the record
- of this proceeding? And then what about the data
- collected in 2003?
- MR. SEEGERT: Those, according to
- what -- Mr. Vondruska looked this up. And
- according to what he told me, those data were

scores, I think that was included in

Exhibit 32. That's entitled Qualitative

Habitat Evaluation Index Scores in the Upper

23

- 1 Dresden Island Pool and Des Plaines River.
- 2 Remember that -- I've got a piece of it here.
- MR. SEEGERT: I believe Mr. Essig
- 4 prepared that.

used.

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- MS. FRANZETTI: Do you remember? It's
  hard for us to say what's included with
  things you did, but it does reference some EA
  QHEI information from the '93 and '94 time
  period. It may not cover each one of these
  pools: Lockport, Brandon, and Dresden in
  that exhibit. We're not sure just what was
- MS. DIERS: Do you know if the '93/'94 is it in Attachment A?
- MS. FRANZETTI: Excuse me?
- MS. DIERS: The '93/'94 data I'm

  asking about, do you know is it in Attachment

  A, the UAA report?
- MS. FRANZETTI: Oh, is it in -- I

  don't know off the top of my head. That's

  what you're referencing here in your

  Exhibit 32.
- MS. DIERS: That's what we're

thinking. We're just trying to --

24

BY MS. DIERS:

- Q. I'm going to strike Question 62. I'm
- going to go to 65, and I might back up. But I think
- 3 if I start with 65 it'll help put it all in content.
- 4 Sixty-five: You testify on Pages 8 through 9 that
- 5 these low scores are a strong indication that a
- 6 majority of the habitat in the Upper Dresden Pool is
- 7 not sufficient to support Clean Water Act
- 8 aquatic-life goals. I'm going to jump back up to 63
- 9 and first start with what do we mean by low?
- MS. FRANZETTI: First answer 63.
- MR. SEEGERT: Low scores are those
- 12 below a 60.
- 13 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. And then 64, you testify on Page 8
- that the QHEI scores were below 60 in most of the
- Dresden Pool. Were there any above 60? And, if so,
- where?
- 18 A. Yes. The Brandon tail water area
- score was greater than 60.
- Q. I'm going to go to 66. You call
- 21 habitat in the Upper Dresden Pool less poor, but
- aren't the scores you generated generally considered
- fair in a narrative sense as stated in the QHEI
- 24 manual?

- 1 A. In this case I was using the phrase
- less poor for comparison purposes between Upper
- 3 Dresden Pool and the Brandon Pool and the Sanitary
- 4 and Ship Canal areas. The habitat in upper Dresden
- 5 Pool is somewhat better than those areas, and I'd
- 6 say fair is a -- I was going to say fair is a
- 7 fair -- fair is an appropriate characterization of
- 8 that habitat, but I would note that fair does not
- 9 equate to Clean Water Act attainment.
- 10 Q. So going back to 65, that part of the
- question, how much good quality habitat is required
- 12 to support a balance aquatic-life population in the
- 13 Upper Dresden Islands Pool?
- A. Well, I'm not aware that anyone has
- established a precise cutoff. I would say that in
- general you would need something like 50 percent or
- more to be in good habitat. I base that on the fact
- 18 that Mr. Rankin in his publication talking about how
- 19 to do QHEI scoring says that fish respond sort of in
- general to what's going on. So that means that one
- 21 bad area doesn't make the whole area bad and one
- good -- conversely, one good area doesn't make the
- 23 area good. It's -- That's kind of why I wanted to
- look at average to begin with. But so I would say

- 1 you'd need to have about 50 percent or more be good
- 2 habitat, and, in this case, we're talking about less
- 3 than 10 percent being good habitat. So we're well
- 4 below what I believe is an appropriate cut-off.
- 5 Q. I'll strike 67. What cover scores
- 6 average in the Upper Dresden Pool? This is 68, the
- 7 second part of it.
- MS. FRANZETTI: You're asking the
- 9 second question in 68?
- MS. DIERS: Yes. What do cover scores
- average in the Upper Dresden Pool.
- MR. SEEGERT: The cover scores in
- Upper Dresden Pool in 2008 range from 4 to
- 14 15, but most sites scored between 8 and 12.
- So, you know, probably the overall average
- would be around 10.
- 17 BY MS. DIERS:
- 18 Q. So is cover a limiting factor in the
- 19 Upper Dresden Pool, getting back to the first part
- of the question?
- 21 A. I would say that cover is one of the
- 22 contributing factors to lower QHEI scores in Upper
- 23 Dresden Pool.
- Q. I'm going to go on to 69. Do you have

- a citation for your statement on Page 10 regarding
- the 45-point cutoff that, under Ohio EPA's use
- 3 classification protocol, would automatically qualify
- 4 the Upper Dresden Pool as a limited or modified use
- 5 category? And what do you mean by automatically
- 6 qualified?
- 7 A. This statement was based on
- information provided in Mr. Rankin's 1989 paper
- 9 where he sets forth the rational for doing the QHEI,
- and he provides a series of flow charts and
- 11 associated rationale. And if you follow those flow
- charts, you see that when streams have a QHEI below
- 13 45, they're always classified either as limited
- 14 resource water or modified warm water habitat,
- unless the biological scores for such a stream
- 16 already show it to be an attainment.
- 17 Q. I'm going to strike 70, I'm going to
- 18 strike 71.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Are you striking 70?
- 20 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Yes.
- MS. FRANZETTI: And 71?
- MS. DIERS: 70 and 71, yes. I think
- I'm going to skip 72. I think we've talked
- 24 about it.

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|----|--|
|    | Page 150                                     |
| 1  | MEMBER RAO: You thought you'd save           |
| 2  | 100 for tomorrow?                            |
| 3  | HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: You know            |
| 4  | what, why don't we go ahead and call it a    |
| 5  | day. It's ten to 5:00, and you're obviously  |
| 6  | looking at striking some more questions.     |
| 7  | MS. DIERS: Thank you.                        |
| 8  | HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: It might be         |
| 9  | more comfortable to do that in your hotel    |
| 10 | room tonight. 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning, |
| 11 | same room.                                   |
| 12 | (At which time the                           |
| 13 | hearing was continued to                     |
| 14 | November 10, 2009, at                        |
| 15 | 9:00 a.m.)                                   |
| 16 | * * * * *                                    |
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     STATE OF ILLINOIS )
                            SS.
 2
     COUNTY OF COOK
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 4
                  I, LAURA MUKAHIRN, being a Certified
     Shorthand Reporter doing business in the City of
 5
     Chicago, Illinois, County of Cook, certify that I
 6
 7
     reported in shorthand the proceedings had at the
     foregoing hearing of the above-entitled cause.
 9
     I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct
     transcript of all my shorthand notes so taken as
10
11
     aforesaid and contains all the proceedings had at
     the said meeting of the above-entitled cause.
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                              CSR NO. 084-003592
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