

June 10, 2008

John Therriault, Assistant Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board  
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

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JUN 16 2008

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

PC 57

**RE: Rule Making R08-009**

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

As a member of Friends of the Chicago River, I am writing to express my support for the recommended water quality standard improvements proposed by the Illinois EPA for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River as rule making R08-009.

These changes are long overdue and recommended only after five years of study on the CAWS and seven on the Lower Des Plaines. We should all support the Illinois EPA's effort and approve the changes.

**As a Chicago resident, recreational kayaker and U.S. EPA Region 5 employee, I think it is critical that:**

- The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District disinfect sewage treatment plant effluent to kill bacteria and protect public health; and
- Temperature and dissolved oxygen standards be implemented to protect fish and help them flourish.

Over the years, the entire CAWS system has changed dramatically. The water has vastly improved through the leadership of agencies like the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and its Tunnel and Reservoir Plan. The City of Chicago, the Chicago Park District, and suburbs like Blue Island and Skokie have poured millions into river access for paddling, fishing, and crew. And so much work has been done to improve habitat and control pollution in the river system that species of fish have climbed from under 10 to nearly 70, including game fish such as large-mouth bass, bluegill and yellow perch.

Because a review like this only comes along every 20 years, right now we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity. I urge the Illinois Pollution Control Board to continue the momentum toward dramatically improved water quality by supporting the Illinois EPA recommendations.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter,

Michael Hans  
5237 N. St. Louis  
Chicago, IL 60625  
773 279-9284