

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
)  
WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AND )  
EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS FOR THE ) R08-9  
CHICAGO AREA WATERWAY SYSTEM ) (Rulemaking - Water)  
AND THE LOWER DES PLAINES RIVER: )  
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 35 Ill. )  
Adm. Code Parts 301, 302, 303 and 304 )

**PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF SUSAN O'CONNELL**

My name is Susan O'Connell and I am a Supervising Civil Engineer in the Maintenance & Operations Department at the District. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I have worked at the District as an engineer at varying levels of responsibility since 1992. In my current position, I manage the District's environmental permits, including the NPDES permits for the treatment plants. These permits include monitoring, notification and reporting requirements for combined sewer overflows, known as CSOs, within the District's jurisdiction.

As part of the permit requirements, the District maintains a website which provides information on CSOs and informs the public of the occurrence of CSOs. The public may also sign up to receive direct notification of CSOs via email. The District also submits a quarterly CSO monitoring report to the IEPA that documents the frequency and occurrence of CSOs throughout the District's jurisdiction for a three-month period. This reporting is accepted by the IEPA in lieu of separate reporting by the local municipalities which have permitted CSO outfalls, as the local municipalities do not have the means to monitor the outfalls themselves. The District also conducts routine inspections, maintenance and cleaning activities of the District's interceptor sewer system and associated appurtenances.

CSOs act as relief points when storm water runoff overwhelms the combined sewer system. During and after precipitation, CSOs to the waterway occur when the quantity of combined flow of rainwater and sewage exceed the capacity of the treatment plants, the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) tunnels and the local sewer systems. The CSO outfalls act as a relief point through which the excess flows can be transported, away from homes and businesses, into the receiving waterway.

There are 78 miles of waterways within the District's jurisdiction. Approximately 73% consist of manmade canals and 27% consist of natural streams, many of which have been heavily modified, being deepened, straightened and widened, and are located in heavily urbanized areas.

There are 406 CSO points along the waterways within the District's jurisdiction. 199 of these are owned by the city of Chicago; 35 are owned by the District and 40 local municipalities own the remaining 172. Within the CWS waterways that are the subject of the UAA, there are 255 CSO points. 178 of these are owned by the city of Chicago; 25 are owned by the District and local municipalities own the remaining 52.

During 2005, there were a total of 33 days on which monitored CSO activity occurred; in 2006 and 2007, there were 65 and 42 days of monitored CSO activity, respectively. In 2005 there was an average of 10.7 CSO outfalls discharging on each day that CSO activity occurred. In 2006 and 2007 there were an average of 12.3 and 13.6 CSO outfalls that discharged on each day that monitored CSO activity occurred, respectively.

Included in the 406 CSO points, there are five pump stations which discharge combined sewage into the waterways. The Racine Avenue Pump Station discharges into the South Fork of the South Branch of the Chicago River; the North Branch Pump Station discharges into the North Branch of the Chicago River; the 95<sup>th</sup> Street Pump Station and the 122<sup>nd</sup> Street PS

discharge into the Calumet River, and the 125<sup>th</sup> Street Pump Station discharges into the Little Calumet River. In 2005, 2006 and 2007, the Racine Avenue Pump Station discharged on 8, 20 and 20 days, respectively, while the corresponding volume pumped was 1.47, 5.37 and 5.31 billion gallons, respectively; the North Branch Pump Station discharged on 5, 19 and 16 days, respectively, while the corresponding volume pumped was 0.614, 1.24, and 1.43 billion gallons, respectively; the 95<sup>th</sup> Street Pump Station and the 122<sup>nd</sup> Street Pump Station did not discharge at all during this period and the 125<sup>th</sup> Street Pump Station discharged on three, four, and seven days, respectively, while the corresponding volume pumped was 344, 496 and 672 million gallons, respectively.

The official record of precipitation measured at O'Hare Airport for 2005, 2006 and 2007 is 24.09 inches, 41.93 inches and 35.80 inches, respectively. The official record of precipitation measured at Midway Airport for 2005, 2006 and 2007 is 24.59 inches, 47.55 inches and 39.74 inches, respectively.

*Respectfully submitted,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan O'Connell". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'S' and 'O'.

*By: Susan O'Connell*

**Attachment**

Chicago Area Waterway System Combined Sewer Overflows



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