

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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

**METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER
CHICAGO'S PRE-FILED QUESTIONS TO THOMAS BAMONTE**

1. What safety protocols does your organization employ when inviting the public to use the CAWS?
 - A. Do you avoid certain areas due to barge and motorized boat traffic, absence of safe entry and exit locations, and/or other issues incompatible with recreational uses?
 - B. Do you avoid certain times, such as during and following wet weather events?
 - C. How do you determine when wet weather effects have dissipated?
2. Even if the wastewater treatment plant effluent was disinfected, would you recommend that people, particularly children, should avoid exposure to the CAWS due to pathogen contributions from stormwater runoff and combined sewer overflows?
3. What protocols do you personally employ to minimize the potential of illness due to exposure to pathogens in the waterways in which you kayak?
4. On page 4 of your testimony, you indicate that “[a]n unexpected boat wake or collision with another kayak can result in loss of balance and capsizing.”
 - A. Aside from the increased risk of water ingestion, does capsizing pose other safety related risks?
 - B. Do you agree that kayaking in certain portions of the CAWS might be unsafe due to barge traffic?
5. On page 5 of your testimony, you state that, “the River is heavily used by novice paddlers because it is more protected than Lake Michigan waters.”
 - A. Do you feel comfortable with the fact that these “novice” paddlers share the waterways with a high number of barges, power boats and tour boats that cause large wakes and take up a major portion of the waterway?

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- B. Have you experienced the pull or suction of small hand-powered craft (and larger boats for that matter) towards a barge when they pass through the center of a waterway due to the huge volume of water they push? Do you feel confident that novice kayakers would be able to navigate through this suctioning effect?
 - C. Since novice paddlers are more likely to capsize, do you worry that if they do, they may be in an area with steep banks and no ability to climb out of the water?
6. On page 5, you state “I hope that the IPCB will establish water quality standards that reflect the fact that recreational paddlers like kayakers have extensive bodily contact with River water each and every time they paddle in the River.”
- A. Are you familiar with the reasons cited by IEPA explaining why the primary contact use is not even being considered in this rulemaking due to its inappropriateness for the CAWS?
 - B. Do you believe that the proposed technology-based standards requiring disinfection to 400 fecal coliform counts per 100 milliliters for the secondary-treated effluent from the three water reclamation plants will make the River safe for recreational paddlers?
 - C. To your knowledge, would “extensive bodily contact” with the River carry any less risk with respect to pathogens if the District plants were to disinfect? Please cite any evidence you have concerning this risk.
 - D. Do you believe that the River will be safe at all times (in terms of limiting paddlers’ exposure to illness-causing pathogens) regardless of the existence of other potential pathogen sources (excluding the secondary-treated effluent from the water reclamation plants)?
 - E. If there are lingering effects of combined sewer overflows and other wet weather sources of potential illness-causing pathogens, do you believe that people should know when the River water may not be safe?
 - F. Or, if it is difficult to communicate this in a clear way, should people be warned, in general, that the water may not be safe so they can take extra precautions?
 - G. Given the concern you express in your testimony for water contact on the part of kayakers, as President of the Chicago Area Sea Kayakers Association, does your association take any action to inform recreational paddlers that the River water currently is not safe due to “direct (e.g., hand in water)” or indirect “(e.g., water on gear)” (p. 4) exposure to River water? If not, why?
7. In the petition you filed on behalf of CASKA on April 18, 2008, you state that the Board is urged to adopt rules that meet a General Use standard by 2016 (CASKA April 18, 2008 filing top of page 2).
- A. Is this what you are alluding to in the concluding remarks of your testimony?

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- B. If so, how do you propose that the Board structure a rule that would ensure that the waterways meet General Use standards considering that wastewater effluent is not the only source of bacteria and pathogens to the waterways?

Dated: August 25, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

**METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION
DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO**

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