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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board
December 4, 2000

Ms. Dorothy Gunn
Clerk of the Board
Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 W. Randolph St.
Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Public Comment re R01-13

R01-13
P.C. #16

Dear Ms. Gunn:

The Illinois Pollution Control Board should adopt strong rules to prevent degradation of Illinois, rivers, lakes and streams. New or increased pollution should not be allowed in any water unless it has been shown that it will not hurt aquatic life.

New or increased pollution should not be allowed in any Illinois water unless it has been shown that it is really necessary. This means that all reasonable alternatives to allowing the new pollution should be considered carefully.

In all regions of the state, there are a few high quality lakes and streams that should be preserved in their existing high quality. To protect natural beauty, endangered species, wildlife, and opportunities for our children to enjoy nature and outdoor recreation, new development should be preventing from impacting these outstanding waters.

Presently, the Illinois EPA grants permits for new and increased discharges of pollution without much scientific study or citizen input. No serious studies are performed to determine if the new pollution will harm the aquatic life in the receiving water or if allowing the new pollution is truly needed to accommodate important economic or social development.

The Illinois EPA proposal allows citizens to petition to have waters designated as "Outstanding Resource Waters" and protected from future pollution, but practically makes it impossible for them to do so. Under the proposal, notice must be given to many more types of businesses and individuals than is reasonably necessary. Also, the proposed rules require citizen groups to provide evidence on potential economic impacts of an Outstanding Resource Water designation although such groups obviously do not have access to the necessary information. Friends of clean water should urge the Board to eliminate unnecessary burdens on ORW petitions and not require citizens to offer testimony on things that only business knows. If businesses are concerned about a potential ORW designation, they can come forward with evidence as to how it might hurt their revenues or costs.

I am urging you to adopt these antidegradation rules to help keep Illinois' clean waters clean. Let your conscience be your guide.

Sincerely,



Dominic C. Camona (concerned citizen)