



LAKE MICHIGAN FEDERATION

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December 1, 2000

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

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

R01-13
P.C.#12

Re: Public Comment re R01-13

Dear Ms. Gunn:

The Lake Michigan Federation urges the Illinois Pollution Control Board to adopt strong rules to prevent degradation of Illinois' rivers, lakes and streams. New or increased pollution should be prohibited in any water unless it has been shown that it will be harmless to aquatic life. Also, 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 carefully considered.

In addition, some Illinois waters should be protected from all new pollution entirely. Citizens and citizen groups should be allowed to petition to have waters designated as Outstanding Resource Waters and protected from pollution. The process for submitting petitions should be as efficient as possible; citizens should not be expected to show the economic impacts of the designation. Developers and other businesses can be counted on to complain if they think an Outstanding Resource Water designation will cost them money.

The Lake Michigan Federation works to restore fish and wildlife habitat, conserve land and water, and eliminate toxics in the watershed of the largest lake within the United States. We achieve this through education, research, law, science, economics and strategic partnerships. As a result, the Federation seeks to ensure that people can turn to the Lake Michigan environment for clean drinking water, healthy food, healthy recreation and natural beauty.

Because of the Lake's vital importance to the region, and to the citizens of Illinois in particular, the Federation believes it is imperative that this significant natural resource should be protected by the strongest possible anti-degradation rules. Therefore, we would urge that new permits issued for the Great Lakes watershed should be required to attain the highest applicable regulatory and statutory requirements so as to not contribute to the lowering of the water quality within the Great Lake's watershed.