

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
July 7, 1995

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 )  
PETITION OF ACME STEEL COMPANY ) AS 94-8  
AND LTV STEEL COMPANY FROM ) (Adjusted Standard-  
35 ILL. ADM. CODE 302.211 ) Water/NPDES)

DISSENTING OPINION (by J. Theodore Meyer):

I dissent from the majority's granting an adjusted standard from 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.211 to Acme Steel Company (Acme) and LTV Steel Company (LTV). The majority's opinion would allow additional discharges into the Calumet River.

I am familiar with the history of the Calumet River because I moored a boat at 135th Street and Cottage Grove from 1958 to 1961 and I currently reside in the area. Over the past years, I observed the adverse effects contaminated discharged materials from steel manufacturing plants and other businesses had on the river. Boating down the river in the early 1960's, I could see that decades of contamination destroyed the river's ecosystem and living organisms.

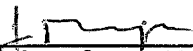
Driving by the Calumet River today, I see the many improvements due to private and governmental environmental efforts. Close environmental monitoring has dramatically made the Calumet River into a life-sustaining waterway. Carp, buffalo, and bullhead fish once gone from the river, are now fished from the river banks. Environmental efforts that lead to the resurgence of fishing are remarkable accomplishments because it has been over a half-century since people have fished in the Calumet River.

However, despite these improvements, the cleanup of the Calumet River is far from completed. A half mile away from the locks just after the "Acme Bend", the water noticeably changes for the worse. The water after "Acme Bend" is the same water that flowed from Lake Michigan into the Calumet River from the locks. The river water from the locks has similar qualities as the lake water. Discharges from the plant make a discernible difference in the Calumet River's water quality. I recognize that there are other contributors to the pollution in the Calumet River, but the difference between river water before "Acme Bend" and river water after it is like day and night.

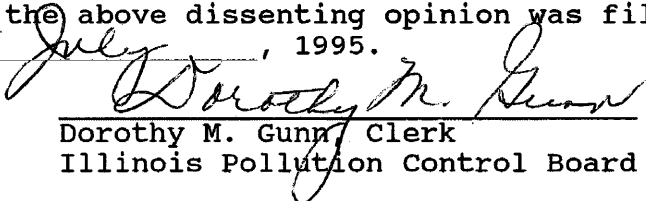
The majority's decision granting an adjusted standard to Acme and LTV abrogates environmental standards that the legislator established to protect the water quality of our rivers. Today's decision may potentially reverse the environmental efforts that have revitalized the Calumet River

into a life-sustaining waterway.

For these reasons, I respectfully dissent.

  
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J. Theodore Meyer  
Board Member

I, Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify that the above dissenting opinion was filed on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1995.

  
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Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board