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ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AND)	R08-09
EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS FOR THE)	(Rulemaking-
CHICAGO AREA WATERWAY SYSTEM)	Water)
AND THE LOWER DES PLAINES)	RECEIVED CLERK'S OFFICE
RIVER: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS)	CLERK'S OFFICE
TO 35 Ill. Adm. Code Parts)	NUV 2 3 2009
301, 302, 303 and 304	j	1404 2 0 2003
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REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS held in the

above-entitled cause before Hearing Officer Marie Tipsord, called by the Illinois Pollution Control Board, taken before Laura Mukahirn, CSR, a notary public within and for the County of Cook and State of Illinois, at 160 North LaSalle Street, Room N-502, Chicago, Illinois, on the 10th day of November, 2009, commencing at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

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2	MS. MARIE TIPSORD, Hearing Officer MR. TANNER GIRARD, Chairman
3	MR. ANAND RAO, Member MS. ALISA LIU, Member
4	MS. ANDREA MOORE, Member DR. SHUNDAR LIN, Member
5 6	Appearing on behalf of the Illinois Pollution Control Board
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Τ.	HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: I think
2	we're ready to go on the record. Good
3	morning, everyone. My name is Marie Tipsord,
4	and I've been appointed by the Board to serve
5	as hearing officer in this proceeding
6	entitled Water Quality Standards and Effluent
7	Limitations for the Chicago Area Waterway
8	System and Lower Des Plaines River, Proposed
9	Amendments to 35 Ill. Admin Code 301, 302,
10	303 and 304. This is Docket No. R 08-9.
11	With me today to my immediate left is acting
12	chairman G. Tanner Girard, presiding board
13	member on this proceeding. Also to his left,
14	far left, is board member Shundar Lin, and
15	board member Andrea Moore will be joining us
16	shortly. To my immediate right is Anand Rao,
17	and to his right Alisa Liu from our technical
18	staff.
19	This is the 35th day of hearings,
20	and we are continuing today to hear testimony

This is the 35th day of hearings, and we are continuing today to hear testimony from Midwest Generation's witnesses, and specifically Mr. Greg Seegert. We will continue with IEPA's questions and then move to the Environmental Law and Policy Center.

1 Anyone may ask a question or ask follow-up 2 question. You need not wait until your turn 3 to ask questions. I do ask that you raise your hands, wait for me to acknowledge you. 5 After I have acknowledged you, please state 6 your name and whom you represent before you 7 begin your questions. Please speak one at a 8 If you're speaking over each other, time. 9 the court reporter will not be able to get 10 your questions on the record. Please note 11 that any questions asked by the board members 12 or staff are intended to help build a 13 complete record for the Board's decision and 14 not to express any preconceived notion or 15 bias. And also this afternoon we'll talk 16 about potential hearing dates in January. 17 Once we have a better idea of how far along 18 we are with Mr. Seegert, we'll have an idea 19 how much time we'll need to finish Midwest 20 Generation. So we'll wait until this 21 afternoon, if that's okay with everyone. 22 CHAIRMAN GIRARD: Good morning. 23 get to work.

24 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: With that, I

will remind Mr. Seegert he has been sworn in and you're still under oath. And we will begin again with the IEPA. I believe we're

at Ouestion 73.

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MS. FRANZETTI: If I might interrupt.

I'm sorry. Mr. Seegert would like to correct
a misstatement he made yesterday with respect
to one of his answers, and this has to do
with the San Antonio River restoration
project.

MR. SEEGERT: Correct. In response to a question from Mr. Ettinger, I referred to a project in Texas which led to a little discussion about is the Colorado River really in Texas. So that got me thinking. it was, but I went back and looked at my maps last night and yes, indeed, the Colorado River is in Texas, but it flows through Austin, not San Antonio. And so the river that I'm referring to was the San Antonio river, and then my recollection of the dollar amount was 240 million. I believe that's what I said. And the actual amount for -- it says eight miles of river south of downtown

- 1 effect of, well, if we had unlimited amounts of
- 2 money, perhaps you could do it. But then I got
- 3 thinking about that and realized that how could you
- 4 put in a riffle in a system that's established for
- 5 commercial navigation? There'd be no way to get the
- 6 barges through it. So, again, you would have to
- 7 take out commercial navigation in order to have
- 8 riffles. So you'd have to take out the damns and
- 9 eliminate navigation in order to put in a riffle
- 10 assuming a riffle could be put in.
- 11 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Mr. Seegert,
- 12 you talked yesterday about a riffle along the
- 13 Missouri River north of St. Louis. Is the
- 14 Missouri River navigable?
- MR. SEEGERT: Missouri River is not --
- My recollection is no, it's not managed for
- navigation. They have a series of what the
- corps calls channel training structures which
- are wing dams, things that divert flow in the
- river. But I don't believe that it's managed
- for commercial navigation. There is pleasure
- craft. It's deep enough for fishermen and
- things like that, but I don't believe that
- it's managed for commercial navigation.

- 1 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. Question 75: Why do you conclude the
- populations of minnows, darters, and suckers in the
- 4 Upper Dresden Island Pool is not balanced?
- 5 A. Well, because there are low numbers of
- 6 individuals in those species and low variety. So,
- yes, there are a few darters, but they're few in
- numbers, and the variety is very low. And then for
- 9 some of the other groups that are important, minnows
- and suckers, they -- certain members of those groups
- are present, but especially amongst the minnows,
- it's the ones that are highly tolerant. So what you
- have are the minnows you don't want, but you don't
- have the minnows that you do want. And so what we
- have down there are species which are habitat
- generalists. So within the sucker group we have
- buffalo and carpsuckers, which are habitat
- generalists. We don't have the habitat specialist
- amongst the suckers in any numbers which would be
- 20 redhorse, hogsucker, some of the other round-bodied
- 21 suckers. So it's the difference between the
- representation as we have habitat generalists, but
- not the habitat specialists that you need to have a
- 24 balanced community.

- 1 Q. How many habitat specialists would be
- 2 needed then?
- A. Well, it's, again, it's not an exact
- 4 number. The way I look at something like this is if
- 5 you're calculating an IBI score for a large river,
- 6 there are certain metrics that species contribute
- 7 to. So any species that you had is going to
- 8 contribute to one of the metrics, the number of
- 9 species. So the more habitat specialists that you
- have, the potentially higher score you could get for
- 11 that metric. We talked a little bit yesterday about
- the metrics on percent round-bodied suckers. So if
- you either have no round-bodied suckers or you have
- only a few individuals. Since that metric is based
- on the percent, it's the number of individuals of
- those round-bodied suckers that contribute. So you
- need a lot because you're dealing with a percentage.
- And then there's some other metrics that, again,
- 19 factor in. And there are even some species of fish,
- for example, longear sunfish. It's not an
- intolerant species, but it's a moderately intolerant
- 22 species. It's a sunfish that does exist in the
- 23 system, but in very low numbers and more often than
- not we don't get. But one of the metrics is number

- of sunfish species. So if you consistently had
- longear sunfish, you would consistently get a higher
- 3 score because it would be contributing one
- 4 additional species to that metric. But in this
- 5 system, we mostly have the really tolerant sunfish.
- 6 We have green sunfish, we have orange spotted
- ye sunfish, we have bluegills, but we're missing the
- 8 moderately intolerant sunfish species. So it's not
- 9 an exact number, but if you look at the IBI, there's
- 10 five or six different metrics where habitat
- specialists directly contribute to the score. So
- adding a few habitat specialists could up the score
- by five to ten IBI points.
- Q. And 76, you might have touched on a
- 15 little bit. Do you make a distinction between the
- 16 Upper Dresden Island Pool's ability to support
- 17 habitat specialists and the Upper Dresden Island
- Pool's ability to support viable populations of
- 19 habitat specialists?
- 20 A. Yes. And make the distinction, again,
- because we're talking about the difference between
- 22 an individual here and there versus having what I
- referred to, I think yesterday, as viable
- 24 populations. That means the population must have

- 1 sufficient numbers to be able to reproduce
- 2 successfully and sustain itself through all life
- 3 stages. So it's not enough that it just can show up
- 4 and stay alive. It has to be able basically to
- 5 prosper. It has to find a good place where it can
- 6 eat and grow, and then a place where it can
- 7 ultimately reproduce, which, in some cases, is the
- 8 same habitat and in other cases it's different --
- 9 It's a different habitat. But all the different --
- the habitat needs to be there for all of its
- different life stages, not just larvae and not just
- 12 adults, but all the stages in between. And for the
- habitat specialists, we have very few of them in
- 14 terms of the number of species. And then we also --
- and even the few that we do have are poorly
- 16 represented, two of these, one of those, that those
- aren't viable populations.
- 18 Q. So how do you know when you have
- enough when you're making these evaluations?
- A. Well, again, I would use something
- like IBI, and the IBI as it's used extensively in
- other states for -- we're talking about boatable,
- 23 nonwadable rivers. And IBIs have different scores,
- but a lot of them like I think the current version

- that Illinois EPA is operating under the maximum
- 2 score is six. So based on 60 as a maximum, the
- 3 typical scores in Ohio for the -- it varies by
- 4 ecoregion, but to reach attainment, they say you
- 5 have to be between about 40 and 45. The scores here
- 6 are half of that. They're basically 20 to 25. And
- 7 everybody has agreed to that. It's not just our
- 8 scores, but the scores calculated by MBI. So we're
- 9 way far apart. We need basically another 20 IBI
- units. And I looked at how could you gain a certain
- 11 number of IBI units, in this case, about 20. And
- 12 say, well, this is what you would have to do. And
- so when you just do -- when you do certain things
- 14 like if you had cover, you could gain a couple of
- 15 IBI points, but you're not going to go up to that 40
- or 45. So you have to -- I mean the way I look at
- 17 it is how could you gain enough species or
- individuals or certain kinds of species to take it
- 19 from what it actually is right now, which is 20 to
- 20 25, and move it way up here to 40 to 45. And given
- the habitat limitations, that's not going to happen.
- The gap is just too big.
- 23 And just as I continue, when you
- 24 asked the question about viable populations, again,

- and I was talking about low numbers of individuals,
- we heard testimony, I believe it was last month from
- 3 Ms. Barcusen (ph.). Am I pronouncing that
- 4 correctly?
- 5 MS. FRANZETTI: I think that's close.
- 6 MR. SEEGERT: And she was talking
- about a need or what she believed was a need
- for some inner connection between the
- 9 tributaries and the main stem of the
- Des Plaines River. And she cited several
- examples and saying, well, like in the DuPage
- 12 River, a -- I think she mentioned a river
- redhorse was collected. In one other case
- she might have mentioned black redhorse. But
- the fact that you get one or two of
- something, again, it doesn't mean that that's
- an established population. And I would grant
- that it's possible that if you find one and
- then the next year you come back and find
- five and the next year you come back and find
- ten, then something is going on. But the
- kind of examples that she was citing only
- indicate that if you go out and do a bunch of
- sampling occasionally, you're going to get a

- 1 rare fish, something that basically wandered 2 in from somewhere else that doesn't have the 3 right amount of habitat. It can't sustain itself, and all you're looking at is, the 5 scientific term a lot of people use are 6 waifs, W-A-I-F-S, and these are basically 7 orphan fish. They just wander in from one 8 place to the other, find themselves in a 9 place where they can't sustain themselves and 10 literally die out because they can't
- 12 BY MS. DIERS:

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13 Q. I'm going to strike Question 77 and go

reproduce, they can't prosper.

- to 78. Please explain your understanding of how the
- 15 Agency relied on IBI data generally. And then
- 16 please explain your understanding of what sources of
- 17 IBI and QHEI data the Agency relied on. And didn't
- 18 the Agency rely on -- I'm going to strike as much or
- more and just ask didn't the Agency rely on QHEI
- data collected by EA more -- I'm sorry -- hang on.
- 21 As much or more data collected by EA than IBI
- referenced on Page 13 in the prefiled testimony?
- A. Well, I believe that the Agency used
- the IBI as primarily a measuring stick to determine

- 1 how good the current fish community is and relative
- to how good it possibly could be. My impression is
- 3 that they did rely more on the data that was
- 4 collected by MBI. I went back and looked at the
- 5 statement of reasons and several other documents,
- and, frankly, I couldn't really see how the data
- 7 were used. I just -- I mean because anticipation --
- in anticipation of this and similar questions, I
- 9 tried to follow the logic, how did you get from
- Point A to Point B; and, frankly, I couldn't follow
- it. It appeared it had something to do with the
- 12 recommendation from the Lower Des Plaines UAA. But
- other than that, it wasn't clear to me how the data
- were used. I just couldn't figure it out.
- Q. Question 79, please provide a
- reference for your statement on Page 14 that states
- 17 Illinois EPA's contending that the Upper Dresden
- 18 Island Pool shares characteristics with Illinois's
- 19 general use waters that enable it to abstain Clean
- Water Act aquatic use goals?
- 21 A. Currently the only aquatic life use in
- 22 Illinois that is considered consistent with Clean
- Water Act goals is the general use. And because
- it's -- the Agency is proposing that Upper Dresden

- 1 Island Pool be upgraded to a classification that
- 2 attains -- that it believes attains Clean Water Act
- goals which is what the general use waters in
- 4 Illinois are believed to be capable of doing, then I
- 5 would conclude that the Agency must believe that
- 6 Upper Dresden Island Pool shares many of the same
- 7 characteristics with other general use waters in the
- 8 state.
- 9 Q. Question 80: You state on Page 14
- that general use waters do not have the combination
- of channelization, impoundment, commercial
- navigation, irregular flows and significant inputs
- 13 from urban storm water and wastewater discharges
- that characterize the Upper Dresden Island Pool.
- What is the basis for this statement? Would you
- agree don't general use waters have each of these
- characteristics that I just mentioned?
- A. Well, I don't think that there are any
- other general use waters in Illinois that have this
- combination of factors; that there may be other
- 21 areas that are classified as general use, and
- perhaps they have impoundments, perhaps they have
- channelizations, but I don't think they have this
- combination of factors or factors to this degree; in

- other words, the degree of impoundment, the degree
- of channelization. Even I think in the statement or
- in your definition for Upper Dresden Pool, you
- 4 talked about the unique flow situation that exists
- in the Upper Dresden -- or in the Upper Dresden Pool
- 6 to support commercial navigation. So by definition
- 7 unique is unique. So this is the only water body
- 8 that's got that set of circumstances, but it's this
- 9 combination of factors that are going to be -- that
- make this system what it is. Then certainly no
- other area in Illinois is as urbanized as the
- 12 Chicago metro area. There are urban centers, but
- they're not nearly the magnitude of the Chicago
- 14 area. No other part of the state has a wastewater
- treatment plant as big as Stickney. We've heard, I
- believe, testimony to the fact that Stickney is or
- may still be the largest wastewater treatment plant
- in the world, not just in Illinois, but in the
- world. So certainly no other place in Illinois has
- 20 a treatment plant of that size located on it. So
- 21 and then on top of the urbanized nature of this
- area, no other area in the state, to my knowledge,
- 23 has what I would call the density of barge traffic.
- 24 It's not just the number of barges moving through

- because you have presumably about the same number
- 2 moving through the Illinois River. But now you've
- necked this down, and there's almost no room on
- either side of the barge. I mean the barge goes up
- 5 and it takes up pretty much all the river channels,
- 6 so everything is getting all churned up. There is
- 7 no other water body that's going to be like that in
- 8 the state. And then another layer of this is the
- 9 habitat, in this case the lack of good habitat. So
- it just seems that there's this whole -- it's the
- combination, it's not just one thing, but it's the
- 12 combination, and then it's the magnitude of each one
- of these limitations.
- 0. Out of all the waters that we're
- looking at in this proposal before the Board, would
- you agree that Dresden Island Pool is the least
- impacted?
- MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, when you say
- impacted --
- MS. DIERS: Well, all the factors we
- just talked about.
- MS. FRANZETTI: By all these factors
- that he's just --
- MS. DIERS: Yes.

- MS. FRANZETTI: Are you going to limit
- it to the areas he's talked about: South
- fork, Ship Canal?
- 4 MS. DIERS: I'll limit it to him.
- 5 That's fine.
- 6 MR. SEEGERT: Of the areas that I
- 7 referred to, I would characterize this area
- as the least poor.
- 9 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. Question 81: Are you recommending
- that Illinois EPA adopt Ohio's use classification
- 12 system? And I'll just strike the question from
- there for right now.
- 14 A. Okay. Well, I do believe that
- 15 Illinois needs a multi-tiered system of aquatic life
- uses. There's a position that I've taken for a
- number of years. We had a meeting in Springfield
- 18 four or five years ago, and I commented during the
- 19 comment period that one of the problems was that the
- state was moving ahead very nicely on setting up
- IBIs. But one of the -- but in order to be able to
- really utilize that data, you needed a multi-tiered
- 23 system. So I believe they need a multi-tiered
- 24 system. Whether it -- I think the Ohio system,

- which I'm quite familiar with, is a reasonable one,
- but I'm not prepared to say that's the one you
- 3 should adopt. I think it's a reasonable one.
- 4 Conceptually it makes a lot of sense. There may be
- others that are equally good or even better. But
- 6 you definitely need a multi-tiered approach, and I
- 7 also believe that whatever system you adopt, it
- 8 should be adopted statewide. I don't think that you
- 9 should deal with water bodies individually. You
- should come up with a state-wide system which is
- what Ohio has, and then says okay, where do these
- water bodies fit within this overall system.
- Q. I'm finished with 81. I'll strike 82,
- strike 83, strike 84.
- 15 Eighty-five: You mentioned
- 16 Mr. Rankin's suggestion that the Upper Dresden Pool
- as a potential modifying impound use. Did
- 18 Mr. Rankin make this suggestion based on habitat
- data alone? I'm sorry. I'm on 85.
- MS. FRANZETTI: I'm sorry, Counsel.
- We're getting there.
- MR. SEEGERT: All right.
- MS. DIERS: I'm not making it easy.
- MR. SEEGERT: Could you repeat that,

- 1 please?
- 2 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. Yes. I'm on question 85. You
- 4 mentioned Mr. Rankin's discussions about the Upper
- 5 Dresden Pool as a potential modified impounded use.
- 6 Did Mr. Rankin make the suggestion based on habitat
- 7 data alone?
- 8 A. He made his conclusion based on his
- 9 evaluation of the habitat.
- 10 Q. And I'm going to ask the last part of
- 11 that question. Did Mr. Rankin imply that his
- 12 conclusion was preliminary given that he did not
- assess biological data in his study?
- 14 A. I believe he did indicate that the
- biological data needs to be considered; however, in
- this case there's lots of biological data that's
- been collected, and it all supports Mr. Rankin's
- 18 conclusion.
- 19 Q. Okay. Strike 86, strike 87.
- 20 Eighty-eight: Where in the CAWS has EA conducted
- 21 fish surveys since 1980? This is referenced on Page
- 22 17 of the testimony. And how many of the 3,159
- collections have been in the Lockport Pool and have
- you collected samples in the CAWS upstream of the

- 1 Lockport Pool?
- A. Our studies have been in the Lockport,
- Brandon, and Dresden Pools except for three sampling
- 4 locations in the south branch of the Chicago River,
- 5 and those are done near Midwest Generation Fisk
- 6 station. And in response to your inquiry about how
- 7 many of the collections were made in Lockport Pool,
- during the period 1993 through 2005, we made 557
- 9 collections in Lockport Pool.
- 10 Q. Ninety-four: Page 24 of your
- 11 prefiled --
- MS. FRANZETTI: Ninety-four?
- 13 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: You're
- skipping 89 through 93?
- MS. DIERS: I'm sorry. Let me hang on
- a second. I missed a page.
- 17 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. I'll go back. Sorry. Question 90:
- 19 Page 19 of your prefiled testimony you state, the
- fish communities in the Upper Dresden Pool and in
- 21 the five mile stretch Dresden Pool downstream of the
- 22 Kankakee River and downstream of the Dresden Lock
- 23 and Dam were relatively similar to each other and
- noticeably better than those upstream at Brandon

- 1 Lock and Dam. What conclusions did you draw by
- these comparisons between the Upper Dresden Island
- Pool and the general use waters downstream of it?
- A. So you skipped 89, correct?
- 5 Q. Yes. Sorry.
- 6 A. Okay. In response to Question 90, I
- 7 would say as discussed in the report that's attached
- 8 to my testimony that EA has concluded that the
- 9 different thermal standards in the two portions of
- the Dresden Pool, in other words, the portion
- upstream of I-55 and the portion downstream of I-55
- that sometimes is referred to as the five-mile
- stretch, that those areas -- that the temperature
- does not have a significant effect on the fish
- community, and we all -- but we conclude the fish
- 16 community in both areas is depressed.
- MR. ETTINGER: May I ask you a
- question here? Has EA ever found a
- 19 temperature problem anywhere?
- MR. SEEGERT: Yes.
- MR. ETTINGER: Where?
- MR. SEEGERT: There's a situation on
- the Ohio River where there's a power plant.
- And I don't understand all the ramifications,

but because of how the permit is written, 1 2 their temperature limit is based on like BTU 3 loadings. So they don't actually have an instream temperature limit. And so the fish 5 community in the tributary into which they 6 discharge is very warm, and so there is an 7 effect going on. But apparently, and I don't 8 understand all the legal parts of this, but 9 because of how the permit is written, they 10 are in compliance. So even though there 11 appears to be an effect going on -- well, 12 there is an effect in part of the receiving 13 water body, they're not in violation of the 14 permit, and perhaps during the next permit 15 cycle that will get changed. But so that 16 would be one example. 17 MR. ETTINGER: Do you know what plant that is and where it is? 18 19 That is the Stuart MR. SEEGERT: 20 plant, and all I can remember is it's 21 upstream of Cincinnati on the Ohio. 22 MR. ETTINGER: Thank you.

Question 91:

Page 19 of your prefiled

23

24

BY MS. DIERS:

Q.

- testimony you state, results at thermally-influenced
- 2 sampling stations were comparable to those at other
- 3 stations. What do you mean by comparable? How did
- 4 you determine which sampling stations were thermally
- 5 influenced and can we identify this in your report?
- 6 A. I'm not sure this is the exact order
- you asked the questions, but comparable means
- 8 similar. It doesn't necessarily mean they're
- 9 statistically similar, but basically you look at the
- numbers and they're pretty close. And as far as how
- do we know whether there was thermal influence, we
- 12 take temperature measurements as part of our
- collections to verify what the temperature regime
- was within the zone that we're sampling. And that
- was described in the '93/'94 EA reports. And
- 16 temperature data are included in those reports, and
- we identify the areas that are most thermally
- influenced which end up being those -- not
- surprisingly those locations that are in the actual
- discharge canal or one of the locations immediately
- 21 next to it. So basically it's the locations that
- 22 are closest to the plant that are thermally
- 23 influenced.
- MS. WILLIAMS: Can I just ask a

	Page 20
1	clarification really quick?
2	HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Keep it
3	limited, Miss Williams.
4	MS. WILLIAMS: I just want to
5	understand. You said that temperature data
6	are included in those reports.
7	MS. FRANZETTI: Yes, he did.
8	MS. WILLIAMS: Where are the sampling
9	points that the temperature data is from?
10	MR. SEEGERT: What?
11	MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, I'm not
12	following your question. Do you understand
13	the question?
14	MR. SEEGERT: No.
15	MS. FRANZETTI: Can you try to
16	rephrase?
17	MS. WILLIAMS: Is temperature data
18	taken only at the I-55 bridge in those
19	reports or is it throughout the sites?
20	MR. SEEGERT: No. Well, Mr. Vondruska
21	
	can address that better.
22	MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.
23	MR. VONDRUSKA: In the field for our
24	electro

- 1 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Excuse me.
- Just for the record, you were sworn in
- yesterday, and you're still under oath.
- 4 MR. VONDRUSKA: Yes. Thank you. When
- 5 we do conduct our electrofishing, we make
- 6 real time temperature measurements, dissolved
- oxygen, specific conductivity, and take disc
- measurements right prior to when we sample.
- 9 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.
- 10 BY MS. DIERS:
- 11 Q. I'm going to go to 93. I think it
- 12 flows better, and I'll probably jump back to 92.
- Ninety-three: On Page 21 of your prefiled
- 14 testimony, you discuss the fish sampling conducted
- following the Adjusted Standard 96-10 opinion.
- 16 Would you agree that the fish diversity, and, I
- guess, the balance of the fish population in the
- 18 Upper Dresden Island Pool has increased since that
- 19 time?
- A. I would agree that fish abundance has
- increased slightly, but I would note that that's
- really the result of just a few species. So it's
- not like the whole community has increased, but
- 24 rather a few species. And a number of those that

- 1 have increased are some of the highly tolerant. So
- 2 it's not particularly surprising that they might
- 3 have increased. But, yes, there has been somewhat
- 4 of an increase in terms of numerical abundance. The
- 5 diversity and balance I don't think are really
- 6 appreciably different than if you do some of the
- 7 comparisons. You compare, let's say, just kind of a
- 8 hypothetical, 2000 versus 1994. 2000 might have had
- 9 a higher IBI score, but another year it might not
- 10 have been higher. So some of the years there's an
- improvement, and it almost has to do with your
- benchmarking it against 1993 which for reasons we
- don't fully understand seem to have abnormally poor
- scores. So compared to what we think is probably
- somewhat of a poor year, abundance is increased, but
- the diversity and the overall balance are pretty
- much unchanged.
- MR. ETTINGER: I have to interrupt
- here again. You've been using this term
- intolerant or tolerant or relatively
- tolerant. What do you mean by intolerant
- species?
- MR. SEEGERT: I'm using it, and for
- the most part, using the same species that

1 Ohio EPA has used. So what you -- and the 2 way that -- there's a couple ways that are 3 established for doing this: One is to -- and also at most state level IBIs, the person 5 developing the IBI wants to look at both ends 6 of the fish community. They want to look at 7 the intolerant end and the tolerant end. 8 that person sits down and says, okay, I'm in 9 Wyoming, and then they'll gather as much 10 information as they can about fish abundance 11 and distribution in Wyoming. And then 12 they'll use their professional judgment, 13 sometimes it'll be a group of people, and say 14 these will go in this bucket, the tolerant 15 bucket. These go into the intolerant bucket. 16 Now, Ohio, because they have a huge 17 biological database was able to do it 18 differently and actually more rigorously. 19 For the tolerant group, what they said is 20 we've got a bunch of sites that have really 21 low IBI scores, and so we know those are poor 22 sites. What fish can tolerate our poor 23 sites? What do we actually find in our poor 24 sites? I forgot the exact percentiles that

1 they used on this, but that was the question 2 they were asking, what do we consistently see 3 at the very poor sites. And then they basically did the reverse of this, for 5 what -- at our best site, what are the 6 species of fish that are basically 7 representative of the best sites, fish that 8 are often not found at just fair sites or even good sites, but where you see them is at 10 the best sites. So basically you're saying 11 what are the fish, the intolerant are the 12 ones that are at the best sites, and the 13 tolerants are the ones that are at the 14 poorest sites. And in most cases, as is 15 typically done, you're talking about 16 tolerance not to a whole host of toxicants, 17 but to habitat disturbance, siltation, and 18 sedimentation. And what U.S. EPA, I believe, 19 calls conventional pollutants which are 20 things like dissolved oxygen and ammonia. So 21 it's -- You're not talking about the 22 tolerance, the PCBs, or the ambient, but 23 mostly to habitat disturbance, siltation and 24 sedimentation, and conventional pollutants.

1	MR. ETTINGER: So are some fish more
2	intolerant to one disturbance than another?
3	MR. SEEGERT: Definitely so.
4	Something can be I mean the question
5	always has to be tolerant or intolerant to
6	what as I put the kind of general context,
7	but there could be something which is very
8	tolerant to sediment, but it's not at all
9	tolerant to dissolved oxygen or I'll give
10	you an example. Yellow perch, relatively
11	speaking, is not very temperature tolerant.
12	It's somewhat of a cool water species. But
13	it's very tolerant to low DO conditions.
14	That's why there are a lot of lakes in
15	northern Wisconsin that you have freeze-out
16	lakes where the dissolved oxygen goes almost
17	to zero. And you'll find usually two or
18	three species of fish, and one of those will
19	be yellow perch, because they're very
20	tolerant. This is where the professional
21	judgment of the biologist comes in. So
22	you're saying overall where am I going to
23	place this critter? What bucket do I want to
24	put that species in?

	1 4 9 0 0
1	MR. ETTINGER: Where would you put
2	channel catfish?
3	MR. SEEGERT: Channel catfish tend to
4	be in the near the tolerant end. So if
5	you think of a continuum from intolerant to
6	tolerant, I would not call them highly
7	tolerant. I would call them moderately
8	tolerant.
9	MR. ETTINGER: Thank you.
10	CHAIRMAN GIRARD: Could I ask a
11	follow-up on that, Mr. Seegert. You gave us
12	the general characteristics you look for to
13	identify a poor site. What are the
14	characteristics you would use to identify the
15	best sites?
16	MR. SEEGERT: Well, okay. Do you mean
17	in terms of habitat or the fish community?
18	CHAIRMAN GIRARD: Well, give me both.
19	MR. SEEGERT: Okay. Well, in terms of
20	habitat, we've heard testimony from several
21	people talking about the 60 cut-off on the
22	QHEI. That means it's good. It doesn't mean
23	it's excellent. So I believe Ohio uses
24	either 70 or 75 as a cut-off. So if you're

looking for the -- not sites that just might 1 2 attain, but almost -- you definitely would 3 know habitat is in a limitation. So if you 4 said any site that's above 70, you can say 5 habitat is not going to be a limiting factor. 6 Then what Ohio EPA has done is based on 7 looking at all of their sites for what their 8 highest use is exceptional warm water. 9 not just warm water, exceptional warm water. 10 And that they do state wide at an IBI of 50. 11 They've looked at percentiles of how all 12 their IBI sites, how all their sites score 13 statewide for the IBI. And they're looking 14 at the tail of the curve at the high end and 15 they've decided that 50 is that cut-off. 16 if I wanted to know where the tolerant fishes 17 might be found, I'd go to sites that have 18 IBIs of 50 or more and see what species were 19 there and then see -- yeah, I'm sorry, for 20 the intolerant. And saw what intolerant 21 species were consistently found at these 22 sites where the IBI exceeded 50 or more. So 23 you'd look for sites where QHEIs were 24 probably above 70 or 75 and where the IBI

- scores exceeded 50.
- 2 CHAIRMAN GIRARD: Thank you.
- 3 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. Mr. Seegert, you mentioned IBI in
- 5 answering some of these questions. Were the IBI
- 6 scores included in your report summarized in
- 7 Attachment 1?
- 8 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Attachment 1
- 9 to his testimony?
- MS. DIERS: Yes.
- 11 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Which is
- 12 Exhibit 366.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, I'm sorry.
- 14 Is this one of your prefiled questions or --
- MS. DIERS: It's not.
- MS. FRANZETTI: What's the question
- 17 again? What are we --
- MS. DIERS: He's been talking about
- 19 IBI. And I wanted to know were IBI scores
- included in his report summarized in
- 21 Attachment 1?
- MR. SEEGERT: No.
- MS. DIERS: Is that something that
- could be provided to us?

	Page 35
1	MS. FRANZETTI: Can you give me just a
2	second? Because I'm not sure which IBI
3	scores we're talking about.
4	MS. DIERS: Sure.
5	MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, why don't I
6	let Mr. Vondruska explain what the IBI issue
7	is in the absence of scoring on IBI. I think
8	that's what you're asking for, but if not,
9	then you can follow up.
10	MR. VONDRUSKA: As part of the
11	long-term monitoring the EA has conducted for
12	Midwest Generation, we have not calculated
13	IBI scores because there's not an appropriate
14	IBI for that system.
15	MS. FRANZETTI: Explain that further
16	what you mean by there isn't an appropriate
17	IBI for that system. The IBI system that
18	exists is for what type of waters?
19	MR. VONDRUSKA: For wadable streams.
20	MS. FRANZETTI: And this is not, is
21	not a wadable stream?
22	MR. VONDRUSKA: That is correct.
23	MR. ETTINGER: Maybe I missed
24	something. I felt we were talking earlier

about IBI scores of 20 and 40. Was that --

MR. SEEGERT: Right. Let me --

MR. ETTINGER: We have two different

4 concepts playing out here, or what --

MR. SEEGERT: Historically EA did not

6 calculate IBI scores for this system because

there wasn't an off-the-shelf version of the

8 IBI available that was specific to this

9 system. You would like to have an IBI for

either the ecoregion or the state that you're

dealing with. Illinois has IBI, but as

Mr. Vondruska just mentioned, the IBI that

the State uses is restricted to smaller

streams, primarily wadable streams. So we

couldn't just plug that IBI in. And when we

had the work group that was part of the lower

UAA, the biological advisory group, we talked

about this issue and we agreed that one of

the things we could use was the -- another

measure, the index of wellbeing or IWB. And

that was probably -- that doesn't depend on

all the calibrations that go into the IBI.

So we could use that. Then as things

eventually evolved in the hearings, then MBI

1	decided that they would apply their Ohio
2	version, their boatable IBI to this area.
3	And I say that's an acceptable thing to do.
4	It's not as on target as you would like an
5	IBI to you'd like to have an IBI that
6	someone like Mr. Smogor would have developed
7	using an Illinois specific data set. But
8	that doesn't exist. So MBI said, hey, we'll
9	use a surrogate, we'll use our Ohio version
10	for this system. And when they used when
11	they did that, they got scores mainly in the
12	20s.

MS. FRANZETTI: And it's those scores that you were referring to in your testimony in the report?

MR. SEEGERT: Yes.

CHAIRMAN GIRARD: Can I ask a question? How long did it take Ohio to develop their IBI for larger streams?

MR. SEEGERT: I can't give you an exact number of years, but it was on the order of ten years. They're collecting data, they started in the early '80s, because I was still in -- I was working in Ohio at that

1	time. I worked in Ohio from 1979 to when I
2	joined EA in early 1982. And they were in
3	their data collection phase at that point in
4	time. And then it wasn't until sometime in
5	the mid to late '80s that they came out with
6	their first iterations of their IBI and then
7	they refined the various ones since. But
8	they had about a ten-year period of data
9	collection before they were able to
10	assimilate all that data and develop IBIs not
11	just for boat sites, but also for wadable
12	sites.
13	HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: And, just
14	for the record, MBI is the name of the
15	consulting firm that
15	consulting firm that MR. SEEGERT: Midwest Biological
16	MR. SEEGERT: Midwest Biological
16 17	MR. SEEGERT: Midwest Biological Institute.
16 17 18	MR. SEEGERT: Midwest Biological Institute. HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Right.
16 17 18 19	MR. SEEGERT: Midwest Biological Institute. HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Right. MS. WILLIAMS: Finish your question
16 17 18 19 20	MR. SEEGERT: Midwest Biological Institute. HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Right. MS. WILLIAMS: Finish your question for the record. Because I think that there
16 17 18 19 20 21	MR. SEEGERT: Midwest Biological Institute. HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Right. MS. WILLIAMS: Finish your question for the record. Because I think that there may be

16 Α. Yes.

be clear?

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No.

they were --

may --

BY MS. DIERS:

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17 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: We're still

18 not -- you need to relay back, for the

19 record, because we are 35 days into hearings

20 and it's been a long time since we've talked

21 about MBI. What is MBI's relation and why is

22 it important that they used -- relationship

23 to this rulemaking, and why did they -- why

24 is it important -- Why did you use their IBI

1 scores?	
2 MR. SEEGERT: MBI was a	consultant who
3 I believe was hired by Illinoi	s EPA no.
Were they hired by U.S. EPA?	
5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: U.S.	EPA.
6 MS. FRANZETTI: Someone	hired them.
7 MR. SEEGERT: I thought	in the
8 statement of reasons it said o	our consultant.
9 Am I misremembering?	
MS. WILLIAMS: I'll cla	rify for the
11 record, MBI, that organization	, was hired by
the Illinois EPA to testify on	the
temperature report that Mr. Yo	der provided.
14 That was their role in this pr	oceeding.
15 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD	a: And MBI did
a lot of we have their IBI	scores in the
17 record.	
MS. WILLIAMS: They wer	e out there
19 collecting data just like ever	yone else has
20 been out there collecting data	, and their
data has been used. I believe	U.S. EPA hired
them to collect some data and	
23 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD	: That's fine.
MS. WILLIAMS: We used	MBI's data. I

	Page 41
1	don't understand the significance. I don't
2	want to imply here that somehow they were
3	hired by the Agency for any to collect
4	data.
5	MR. ETTINGER: As you pointed out, it
6	is a big record. Does anybody know where
7	this data is in the record?
8	HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Actually, I
9	was just looking.
10	MS. FRANZETTI: When you say this
11	data, Albert, MBI
12	MR. ETTINGER: The MBI we have too
13	many initials.
14	HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: All right.
15	Can I MBI qualitative habitat evaluation
16	index field sheets are Exhibit 7. MBI fish
17	data sheets are Exhibit 20, and that's just a
18	quick search through. That's why I was
19	trying to get on the record what was the
20	basis for the use of the IBI scores from MBI.
21	MS. FRANZETTI: There is also
22	there's an MBI that what Mr. Seegert has at
23	times referred to as the Rankin report, that
24	is also a part of the record. And

- MR. SEEGERT: He works for MBI.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Mr. Rankin worked for
- MBI. So the references to Mr. Rankin's work
- with regard to his QHEI scoring of the Upper
- 5 Dresden Island Pool is also a part of the
- feeder record, but I don't know that I can spot the
- 7 exhibit number. It actually may have been
- 8 attached.
- 9 MS. WILLIAMS: It's an attachment.
- 10 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: I think it's
- 11 Attachment R.
- MS. FRANZETTI: To the statement of
- reasons.
- 14 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Yes.
- MS. FRANZETTI: That's what I thought.
- So those are just some of the spots,
- Mr. Ettinger, that contain MBI data. There
- may be more.
- 19 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Thank you.
- I think we've established what I needed for
- the record. Thank you.
- 22 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. Mr. Seegert, I had asked you just a
- few minutes ago about who made the decision to use

- 1 the Ohio boatable IBI. You stated MBI. May I
- approach Mr. Seegert, please?
- Mr. Seegert, I'm handing you
- 4 Attachment A, what's been marked in the record as
- 5 Lower Des Plaines River Use Attainability Analysis.
- 6 I'm going to show you Page 6-3 of this report.
- 7 Starting here could you just read that into the
- 8 record?
- 9 A. Okay. Yes, it says after analysis by
- the Lower Des Plaines Use Attainability Analysis
- 11 Biological Subcommittee, it was decided that the
- 12 Ohio boatable IBI was the most appropriate index for
- evaluation of the Lower Des Plaines River.
- Q. Does that change your answer at all?
- 15 A. Yes. We've discussed lots of things.
- 16 And I also would add that, as you were looking for
- 17 that, I remembered that the -- I had remembered the
- genesis of the IBI, but I also remembered that for
- 19 the CAWS UAA, the IBI was definitely used because
- that consultant had asked us for some information,
- 21 but I couldn't remember at that point either how it
- 22 had all come to pass. I had just remembered that
- they also used it.
- Q. That's fine. It's been years ago.

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1	MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, I just want
2	to ask a follow-up. Mr. Seegert, are you
3	relying on the fact that there's that
4	sentence you were just asked to read in the
5	UAA report for your testimony that it appears
6	the subcommittee chose to use the IBI
7	boatable index?
8	MR. SEEGERT: Yes. I'm relying on the
9	accuracy of that statement.
10	MS. FRANZETTI: Do you have an
11	independent recollection as to what the
12	biological subcommittee decided to use?
13	MR. SEEGERT: No.
14	MS. FRANZETTI: And are there minutes
15	of the biological subcommittee meetings that
16	were held back during this stakeholder
17	process?
18	MR. SEEGERT: My recollection is
19	certainly not on a regular basis meaning I
20	don't that's not to say there might have
21	been at one meeting somebody circulated
22	something around that said here is some
23	issues or topics. I don't remember anyone
24	being designated to keep minutes, and minutes

- definitely were not circulated on a regular
- 2 basis.
- 3 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. I'm going to go back to 92. Please
- 5 provide a citation for the following statement: For
- 6 large rivers like the UIW, Upper Illinois Waterway,
- any site greater than 3 percent DELT (deformities,
- 8 erosion, lesions, and tumors) anomalies received the
- 9 lowest possible IBI metric score. And do you have
- DELT scores more recent than the 1990s?
- 11 A. The DELT criteria comes directly from
- 12 the Ohio EPA procedures manual where they describe
- how to score each IBI metric. So it's directly from
- 14 their criterion or from their procedures manual.
- And in answer to the question about DELTs, when we
- had them, we had DELT scores from the '90s to the
- 17 present.
- Q. Question 94: Page 2 of your prefiled
- 19 testimony you state, and although there has been a
- 20 modest improvement in the Upper Dresden Pool in
- terms of fish abundance since 1993, the same ten
- species continue to dominate the community of the
- Upper Dresden Pool and the five mile stretch and
- remain unchanged since before the adjusted standard

- 1 went into effect. I'm going to strike A and ask B:
- 2 Are there any new species that you're seeing in this
- 3 area?
- 4 A. We went and looked at that, and it
- 5 appears that there are -- 17 species have appeared
- 6 since 1995. Now, I caveat that by saying we just
- 7 compared that three-year period, 1993 to 1995.
- 8 There might -- Some of these fish might have been
- 9 collected earlier than 1993, but that's not the
- comparison we were looking at, and it's not the
- 11 question you had asked. So since 1995, 17 species;
- 12 however, of those 17 new species, 13 are represented
- by 10 or fewer individuals . And now we're talking
- about a nine-year period that would be from 1996 up
- 15 through 2000 -- I'm sorry -- 1997 through 2005. So
- if you're talking about a nine-year period and
- you're talking about 10 or fewer individuals,
- talking about basically one individual per year. So
- 19 it's not a lot. And then in some of the years --
- and this was for both the five-mile stretch and
- Upper Dresden Island Pool combined, and some of
- those 17 were found only in one area, some were
- found only in another area, and a few were found in
- both areas.

	i age 4
1	MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, one thing
2	that we'd like to add to the record right
3	now, and I'm going to let Mr. Vondruska
4	that relates to this a little bit. Joe,
5	would you explain what Table 1 is and what
6	it's meant to be.
7	MR. VONDRUSKA: In Attachment 1.
8	MR. SEEGERT: Attachment 1 to my
9	testimony.
10	HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Which is
11	Exhibit 366.
12	MR. VONDRUSKA: Thank you. On
13	Page 10, first paragraph, end of the first
14	sentence refers to a Table 1. That Table 1
15	was not included with this, and we have
16	brought copies.
17	MS. FRANZETTI: So that was an
18	omission on our part. The report refers to a
19	Table 1. Everybody really read it closely,
20	as nobody asked me if it was missing Table 1.
21	But we're going to supply it now, and I think
22	it should probably be marked as an exhibit.
23	MS. DIERS: You caught us.
24	HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: If there's

- no objections, we will mark Table 1, Species
- 2 Composition Number and Relative Abundance of
- Fish Collected By Electrofishing and Seining
- 4 from Upper Dresden Pool in the five mile
- 5 stretch 1993 to 1995 and 1997 to 2005 as
- 6 Exhibit 367.
- Seeing none, it's Exhibit 367. I
- 8 was going to ask about that.
- 9 MS. WILLIAMS: So far we only have two
- new pieces of paper.
- 11 BY MS. DIERS:
- 12 Q. I'm done with 94. So I'm going to go
- on to 95. Would reduction of pollutant loads,
- 14 reductions in sedimentation, and even moderate
- enhancement of habitat features result in some
- 16 recovery of fish assemblage in the Upper Dresden
- 17 Pool? And I'm just going to stop right there.
- A. Well, I think the question is too
- 19 broad to allow me to answer it definitively. First
- of all, what pollutant loads and to what extent of
- 21 pollution reduction are you referring to? And then
- 22 kind of following up on what extent the sediment
- 23 reduction are you talking about and where? Where is
- the sediment going to be reduced from?

- 1 Q. I'll move on.
- Ninety-six: On Page 22 of your
- 3 prefiled testimony you state that MBI QHEI's scores
- 4 did not fall within the acceptable range of
- 5 difference compared to EA QHEI score. What is
- 6 considered an acceptable range?
- A. Again, there's no official acceptable
- 8 range. There's nothing in writing anywhere that
- 9 I've been able to find. However, based on our
- 10 personal experience and some discussions that our
- staff had with Mr. Rankin during the training
- sessions that Ohio EPA run, a certification process
- that they provide, the answer is generally or
- trained experience observers, you're going to be
- within about five points most of the time and
- 16 certainly within ten points. So five points you
- wouldn't be too surprised to see that level of
- difference, but ten points is really not
- 19 explainable. There shouldn't be that much of a
- difference.
- Q. Ninety-seven: I'm going reword it
- just a little. On Page 24 of your prefiled
- testimony, it appears you conclude that the
- 24 difference in QHEI scores between the summer and

- 1 spring seasonal variation would only account for at
- 2 most three points. Is this for every season, and do
- you have any data to support this?
- 4 MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, if I can ask
- you to clarify. When you say is this for
- every season, that at most as you go from one
- 7 season of the year to another, the score
- should not vary by more than three points?
- 9 Is that the "this" that's in the "this" for
- every season? Is it every season of the
- 11 year? And is the question that basically the
- 12 QHEI scores shouldn't vary by more than about
- three points based on just seasonal
- differences?
- MS. DIERS: I guess I'm looking at
- spring/summer, summer/fall, fall/winter. I
- don't know if that helps clarify it.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Okay. All right. So
- I mean that's -- you're looking for how does
- the QHEI score change?
- MS. DIERS: From season to season.
- MS. FRANZETTI: From season to season
- throughout the four seasons of the year?
- MS. DIERS: Yes.

MS. FRANZETTI: Okay. That's fine.

MS. DIERS: Sorry.

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Well, typically the QHEI MR. SEEGERT: is done from spring through fall. typically not done during the wintertime. Nonetheless, regardless of season, the only QHEI metric that would change appreciably amongst any of the season would be the submetric under cover which deals with macrophyte development. So that would change from season to season, and that's what I was alluding to here in terms of the three point difference. And what I did is I looked at how many points you could get in the cover score that are attributed to macrophyte development. Because when Mr. Yoder -- I'm sorry -- Mr. Rankin was there in the spring, the macrophytes wouldn't have been developed, or at least minimally developed. And so it's true that if you come back several months later, the scores at some of the locations might have improved. So how much could they have improved, I think the maximum maybe is like six points, but that assumes that you

- 1 would go from no cover for macrophytes to
- extensive. That wouldn't happen on average.
- Generally there'd be some intermediate value.
- And if you had a site, and we've seen many of
- 5 those sites, where there's essentially no
- 6 macrophytes even in the summer, that score
- 7 wouldn't change at all. So the range of
- 8 change would be from about zero to six
- 9 points, but that's why I use the word
- typically would change by three points or
- less.
- 12 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. Question 98. I'm going to move
- further down because it has to do with Exhibit 2
- which is where we're going next. I'll ask 99 before
- we move on to Exhibit 2. With respect to the OHEI
- scores, it seems that you have Des Plaines 283.0LB
- Under Substrates, Quality, (-2+1)/2=-0.5 and not -1
- 19 repeated twice. Therefore, shouldn't the QHEI,
- shouldn't the QHEI be 50.5 and not 49.5?
- A. You're correct. The OHEI score for
- this location should be 50.5, not 49.5.
- Q. Okay. Strike 100, strike 101 --
- 24 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: You've

	raye 33
1	already asked those. So you don't want to
2	strike them. You've already asked them.
3	MS. DIERS: Whatever works. 102
4	MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, actually can
5	I interrupt and just ask a follow-up question
6	since we're on QHEI scores. This might be
7	the place to do it.
8	Mr. Seegert, I think you
9	reviewed Exhibit 37 which was the It's a
10	CD titled Yoder CD. Included on that were
11	what Mr. Yoder submitted to the Agency as
12	corrected QHEI scores for UAA segments,
13	correct?
14	MR. SEEGERT: That's correct.
15	MS. FRANZETTI: And those were
16	corrections made as a result of issues that
17	were identified with theirs and the QHEI
18	scores done by Mr. Yoder's organization
19	during testimony in this proceeding, correct?
20	MR. SEEGERT: That's correct.
21	MS. FRANZETTI: Now, have you reviewed
22	the QHEI corrected QHEI scores that were
23	contained on Exhibit 37?
24	MR. SEEGERT: Yes. I think you mean

the corrected corrected.

MS. FRANZETTI: Why do you say corrected corrected?

MR. SEEGERT: Because we're in our
third iteration. The QHEI scores were
originally submitted as part of, I believe it
was, Attachment S to the statement of

reasons. And then when Mr. Yoder testified,

he testified to the fact that they had

inadvertently forgot to include impoundment.

So the scores on Attachment S are wrong, and

to correct those scores he provided Exhibit 5

which was a table of QHEI scores for each of

the locations they sampled. During the

questioning of Mr. Yoder, we brought a number

of, I'll call them, mostly math errors to his

attention. He acknowledged a number of those

and said I'll go back and correct those. And

then the result of that was a, I'll call it,

an updated version of Exhibit 5, and that's

what's on Exhibit 37. I took --

MS. FRANZETTI: What have you found with regard to the corrected corrected QHEI

scores scoring sheets that are included in

Exhibit 37?

MR. SEEGERT: The original -- most, but not all, the original errors were corrected. But now they've introduced a whole new series of errors, so now there's even more errors than there were on Exhibit 5.

MS. FRANZETTI: And can you just generally state what the nature is of the new errors that have been introduced in the QHEI scoring sheets that are the version that is contained in Exhibit 37?

MR. SEEGERT: I'll put them in two categories. For the metric, for the pool metric that's one of the QHEI metrics. They apparently rescored that -- well, retabulated their scores from the raw data sheets. And so now most of the values that are in the column for pool score are wrong. So they apparently went back and rechecked, had somebody rescore. And now for that whole column, about half of the numbers are wrong. The other even sort of more curious problem is that they also rescored the metric for the

riparian zone quality. And if you look at the values shown in Exhibit 37, you'll see a number of values of 11. But according to the QHEI procedure, and including the version that MBI is using, it says very clearly the maximum score you can assign to this is 10. But somehow they came up with 11. So every one of those 11 values, and I believe there are five or six of them, they're all wrong. So, in summary, they corrected roughly a dozen errors and introduced roughly 20 new errors.

MS. FRANZETTI: And with respect to the errors, is the end result that some of the scores are off by no more than one or two points; is that correct?

MR. SEEGERT: In most cases, yes. The magnitude of the errors, generally one to two points. To me it goes more to this is now the third try, and it's like three -- three strikes and you're out. So it goes to the whole quality assurance process. You know, errors were pointed out. So, okay, we'll correct those errors. They not only fail to

correct all the errors, but in the process of doing that, introduce even more errors than you started with.

MS. FRANZETTI: That's the end of my questions on the QHEI scores.

THE ARBITRATOR: Let's take a ten-minute break. Do you have something on QHEI?

MR. ETTINGER: I just wanted to finish this -- I can understand why you believe 11 is an error. What is the basis for saying that the other new errors you found are errors as opposed to differences in judgment?

MR. SEEGERT: Because Exhibit 7 are the raw data sheets that they prepared, MBI prepared in the field. And we went back to those same raw data sheets, and it doesn't have anything to do with judgment. It's just what box is checked on these data sheets and adding them up. And when you -- When we add them up, when I added them up independent -- or I added them up, then without telling Mr. Vondruska what I thought the score needed to be, I said is my math correct? He made

	Page 58
1	the same calculations, came up with the same
2	numbers. So in this case if you add six
3	minus one and one, you get six. They did the
4	same calculation and got five.
5	MR. ETTINGER: Okay. So it's
6	basically a comparison with their sheets
7	and
8	HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: You need to
9	speak up.
10	MR. ETTINGER: It's a math problem?
11	MR. SEEGERT: It's a math problem.
12	HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: With that,
13	let's take a ten-minute break.
14	(Short break taken.)
15	MS. DIERS: Did we leave off starting
16	with Exhibit 2, right?
17	HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Yes, we did.
18	MS. DIERS: I've asked 100, 101. I'm
19	going to strike 102, 103, 104, 105, and go to
20	106, and just ask the last half of that
21	question on Page 4 of Exhibit 2.
22	MS. FRANZETTI: We are skipping 102
23	through 105.
24	MS. DIERS: Going to 106.

- MS. FRANZETTI: We're going to come
- 2 back?
- MS. DIERS: No. We're done. I'm not
- 4 going back.
- 5 MS. FRANZETTI: So 106.
- 6 BY MS. DIERS:
- 7 Q. On Page 4 of Exhibit 2, you state the
- 8 Upper Dresden Island Pool clearly does not have the
- 9 extent of good or great habitat that is
- 10 characteristic of general use waters. Is it your
- 11 testimony that all general use waters have good or
- 12 great habitat?
- A. Well, for the purposes of my
- 14 testimony, when I use the phrase general use waters,
- 15 I'm only including within that classification the
- types of waters that should be properly classified
- 17 as general use. I mean -- by this I mean that the
- habitat should, on average, be good or better. And
- 19 for general use waters to attain Clean Water Act
- goals, they're going to need good habitat. We had
- 21 discussed yesterday the fact that many of the
- general use waterways in Illinois were given that
- classification essentially by default. No one went
- through and decided or looked at the habitat, they

- didn't do a use attainability assessment.
- Q. I'm going to strike Question 107, 108,
- 3 109, 110, and 111. I'm going go to Question 112.
- In a water body, if impoundment is
- 5 the main factor that is preventing aquatic life from
- 6 reaching a more natural condition, is removing or
- 7 greatly modifying the impoundment structure the only
- 8 way that aquatic life can attain a more natural
- 9 condition?
- 10 A. Well, although certain modifications
- 11 may result in some improvement of conditions for
- some members of the aquatic community, the aquatic
- community will not improve appreciably until all the
- 14 limiting factors that are preventing attainment of
- aquatic life goals are removed.
- 16 Q. I'm going to strike 113, 114. And
- 17 I'll ask 115. We might have touched on this
- earlier, so if I did, I apologize for asking it
- 19 again. But in the context of attainability of clean
- water contact goals on Page 5 of Exhibit 2, second
- full paragraph of your prefiled testimony you
- mentioned the potential for instream habitat
- 23 improvements that could improve the biological
- 24 potential of the Upper Dresden Island Pool. You

- 1 state that for such improvements to have a
- 2 measurable effect on fish populations and species
- 3 they would have to occur on an unprecedented scale.
- 4 Do you know how much habitat improvement would be
- 5 necessary to have a measurable effect on fish
- 6 population and species in the Upper Dresden Island
- 7 Pool?
- 8 A. Well, it's not so much a matter of how
- 9 much, but rather the kind of improvement.
- 10 Improvement is not going to be significant without
- elimination of the dams, because it's the dams that
- 12 are causing so many of the severe limitations that
- we see. And then, similarly and simultaneously, I'd
- 14 also say that removal of most of the contaminated
- sediment that's in the system would also be
- 16 necessary.
- 17 Q. I'm going to strike 116, 117, 118,
- 18 119. I'm going to go to 120. On Page 5 of
- 19 Exhibit 2, you state that here the main limiting
- 20 factor in this waterway system is the impoundment.
- 21 Similarly on Page 10 of Exhibit 2 you state it is
- 22 the impounding effect caused by these dams that has
- the greatest effect on the fish community. Please
- explain what the main limiting factor is in your

- 1 view?
- A. Well, the main limiting factor, as
- 3 I've stated several times, is the impoundment and
- 4 then the attendant effects that they cause. So it's
- 5 not just one thing that they do, but as I mentioned,
- 6 there are limiting riffles that cause the water to
- 7 slow down and cause sediment. So there's a whole
- 8 series of cascading effects, and they're all
- 9 associated with impoundment. And I've described
- that in my testimony and in the attached report.
- 11 Q. And 121, do you agree temperature is
- 12 also a limiting factor?
- A. I don't believe it's a limiting
- 14 factor. I would agree that temperature might affect
- some fish. For example, there undoubtedly is some
- avoidance of the water mist areas near the plants
- for short periods of time, but that would be on a
- short-term basis, and, in my opinion, would have no
- 19 long-term effect. It's basically just fish moving
- from one place to another and then when the
- temperatures cool down, moving back again. And I
- guess maybe more to the point is, as stated in my
- 23 testimony in the associated or the attached
- document, you could change the temperature. You

- 1 could even eliminate the power plants, and there
- still would not be a fish community that attained
- 3 Clean Water Act goals. It's not temperature that's
- 4 limiting the system, it's all the other factors that
- 5 I've mentioned.
- 6 Q. Strike 122. 123, on Page 6 of your
- 7 report, Exhibit 2, you state it was agreed that
- 8 adverse effect of such extreme variations in water
- 9 level on habitat, by disrupting fish spawning and
- 10 feeding, are greater than the potential effects of
- temperature. And this was at the UAA hearing,
- January 31, 2008, at Page 227. Please identify
- where this is found in the transcript page cited.
- 14 And then do you agree that the statement in your
- 15 testimony incorrectly characterizes the testimony of
- Mr. Yoder on Page 227?
- A. Well, let me answer the last question
- 18 first. No, I don't think it incorrectly
- characterizes his testimony. Mr. Yoder agreed that
- 20 it could be true that adverse effects of the extreme
- 21 fluctuations in the Ship Canal in terms of water
- height varying by four to six feet could basically
- trump the effects of temperature. So I think that
- 24 what I said is an accurate characterization. He

- 1 agreed that those wide fluctuations could trump
- 2 temperature.
- Q. Did Mr. Yoder also say in that line of
- 4 questioning when you're talking about in the
- 5 transcript that the reverse could be true?
- A. Yes. He did say that -- the reverse,
- but it would depend. I know certainly he said both,
- you know. It could happen in either direction.
- 9 Q. Thank you. I'm going to strike 124.
- One hundred twenty-five, on Page 8
- of Exhibit 2 you state, there are no known plans for
- 12 reducing sedimentation in either water body, and the
- contributing sources will continue to add sediment
- 14 to the waterway. Are you familiar with the tunnel
- and reserve project?
- 16 A. I'm aware of it. Again, I wouldn't
- use the term familiar, but I'm aware of the project
- and what its general goals are.
- 19 Q. Do you think that the project would
- result in a significant decrease in sediment loading
- 21 to the waterway?
- A. Well, based on some of the transcripts
- I've read and some of the testimony that I've heard
- when I've attended previous hearings, it's my

- 1 understanding that when TARP is fully online, it
- will reduce the number of CSO events. However, that
- 3 same testimony indicated it's not going to eliminate
- 4 all of the CSO events. So they're not going to
- 5 disappear completely. So I think it's unclear how
- 6 much of a reduction there's going to be in sediment
- 7 loading. Also, I think it stands to reason that
- 8 the, we'll call them events, that it's not going to
- 9 handle or going to be the biggest event. In other
- words, the bigger the event is, the less able TARP
- is going to deal with it. And so it's really a
- volume issue. It's not just a number of CSO events
- that are reduced, but how much the volume. And I
- did not hear any testimony, but I certainly would
- expect that the biggest events are not going to be
- particularly well-controlled. And then in any case,
- 17 TARP is designed, as I understand it, to deal with
- the CSO issue. There's still going to be all the
- other issues about sediment coming in through the
- 20 sort of general overland flow from various nonpoint
- 21 sources from the development we talked about
- yesterday, and I'm not positive how to correctly
- characterize whether they're point or not point.
- But it's not a regulated -- it's not an NPDS

- discharge point, and so all of those things are
- still going to continue. So I think, yes, TARP
- overall will have -- will result in some reduction
- in loading, but I don't know what that level of
- 5 reduction is going to be or whether it's going to be
- 6 significant enough to reduce sediment to a level
- 7 where it would no longer be a problem.
- MR. ETTINGER: Is it your
- 9 understanding that construction is nonsubject
- 10 to NPDS?
- 11 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: I didn't get
- 12 all of that.
- MR. ETTINGER: I'm sorry. Is it your
- understanding that urban construction runoff
- is not subject to NPDS requirements?
- MR. SEEGERT: That's my understanding,
- yes.
- MR. ETTINGER: Thank you.
- 19 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. I'm going to strike 126, go to 127.
- On Page 9 of Exhibit 2, the top of
- your prefiled testimony, you state that the presence
- of barges located near the stream bank has adverse
- effects on fishes. You cite the photographs in

- 1 Attachment 2A. How do these photographs indicate
- 2 the adverse effects of barges on fish?
- A. Well, the barges are parked along the
- 4 shallow edge of the river, and this is generally one
- of the more product -- or should be one of the more
- 6 productive parts of the river. And so any time
- you're going to be moving barges in and out, that's
- going to constantly disturb and resuspend the
- 9 sediment. It's going to uproot aquatic vegetation.
- 10 To the extent that there are aquatic
- 11 macroinvertebrates there, it's going to either
- 12 disturb -- either disturb them by stirring them up,
- or it's going to cause silt to fall on them which is
- 14 potentially going to bury them, or at least it's
- certainly not going to be a positive effect. And,
- 16 remember, this is not just one barge, this is a
- whole spring of barges. So this is a pretty long
- 18 section of shore line where this activity is going
- on, and these barges have to be regularly moved in
- and out.
- Q. And I'm going to strike 128, 129. We
- covered 130 and 131, so I'll move on; strike 132.
- 23 I'm going to go to 133. On Page 11 of Exhibit 2 of
- your prefiled testimony, you state that impoundment

- 1 effects in Upper Dresden Island Pool eliminated or
- 2 greatly reduced large groups or classes of fish
- 3 including all that are obligate riffle dwellers and
- 4 other species that spend much of their life in fast
- water over hard substrates. What obligate riffle
- 6 dwellers and other species of fish that spend much
- of their life in fast water over hard substrates
- 8 were eliminated from part of Des Plaines River that
- 9 is now Upper Dresden Island Pool by the creation of
- 10 the Dresden and Brandon locks and dams? And what
- information do you base your answer on?
- 12 A. Well, I think to some extent we've
- covered this. But as described in my testimony and
- the attached report, there are groups of fish that
- depend on these shallow fast water areas, some of
- which are going to be riffle, some of which are
- going to be runs. And those would be groups like
- 18 redhorse, darters, madtons, some other round-bodied
- 19 suckers, and certain minnows. And I would expect
- 20 that -- And these have been reduced in abundance or,
- I guess what I would call, functionally eliminated.
- 22 It's sort of a follow-up to what I was talking about
- on the viable population. Yes, you might find a
- couple of these things here or there, but they don't

- 1 really have functioning population. And I base my
- 2 conclusions on the well over 20-year dataset that EA
- 3 has collected which shows that the groups that I've
- 4 referred to are either absent or present only in
- 5 greatly-reduced abundance. I'm drawing upon that
- 6 20-plus year data set for each of my conclusions.
- 7 MR. ETTINGER: Excuse me. Do none of
- 8 these species live in lakes?
- 9 MR. SEEGERT: Most of them -- Well,
- the ones that I was -- if something is an
- obligate riffle dweller, it does not live in
- a lake, because obligate means that's where
- it has to be. There are a few species within
- this group that can spend mostly their adult
- life or part of their adult life in a
- lake-like environment. So if you sample a
- large impounded river like the Tennessee
- River or the Mississippi River, you will find
- redhorse. But in those cases, they're going
- to find places where they need to -- it's
- 21 mainly a spawning situation either within
- that water body itself or in a large
- tributary. So some of the redhorse can be at
- part of their life stage in a lake-like

1 environment, and then there's a couple of 2 darter species that, just for frame of 3 reference, not in Illinois, but in the United States there are roughly 200 species of darters. 5 And they don't all have the same 6 habitat requirements in Illinois. I think we 7 probably have about 20 species of darters. And there's really, out of that roughly 20 9 species, there's only one that -- I'm 10 sorry -- two that occur in lakes with any 11 regularity. But I'm saying as a group, that 12 group mainly is associated with fast water 13 riffle areas. So there are exceptions, but 14 they're the exceptions to the overall rule.

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MR. ETTINGER: Of the species that you just got done naming, which ones can live in lakes?

MR. SEEGERT: Well, of darters that are found in this system which can live in lakes, not necessarily spawn in the lake, but at least live in the lake would be johnny darter and logperch. And then and, again, I'm not sure if we're talking about -- So your question refers to lakes, not

1	impoundments; is that correct? I don't
2	none of the redhorse are in the lakes in
3	lakes with any regularity. They are
4	certainly found in impoundments in the
5	northern part of the range more than the
6	southern part of the range. I think the
7	shorthead redhorse occasionally occur in
8	lakes. But, again, they're just there. They
9	can find places to feed, but they would need
10	fast-moving water in order to spawn.

MR. ETTINGER: Just a couple of other fish here, as long as we're dealing with fish in impoundments. Can channel catfish live in lakes?

MR. SEEGERT: Yes, they can.

MR. ETTINGER: How about white sucker?

MR. SEEGERT: Yeah. White sucker

18 live -- again, I want to make the

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distinction. Yes, they can live. So the

analogy would be if I set up an aquarium in

21 my house, could I put a white sucker in there

and would it live? The answer is yes. As

long as the water quality is sufficient, it

will live. Could it live out its whole life

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1	cycle in a lake? The answer to that is no.
2	So, for example, here in Lake Michigan there
3	is a white sucker population. It resides
4	there a good part of the year. But come
5	spring, generally about mid April, they head
6	into the tributaries to Lake Michigan. They
7	go up to the riffles, and that's where they
8	spawn. So if you cut off their access from
9	Lake Michigan to their spawning areas,
10	eventually all those adults would die out.
11	So they can live and feed as adults in the
12	lake, but they need the tributaries to be
13	able to spawn.
14	MR. ETTINGER: Do some of these spawn
15	in white suckers, do they spawn on sholes
16	in lakes?
17	MR. SEEGERT: I'm not aware of white
18	sucker being a shole spawner, no.
19	MR. ETTINGER: Okay. Walleye? Do
20	walleye live in lakes?
21	MR. SEEGERT: Yes, they do. And they
22	can spawn over sholes.
23	MR. ETTINGER: Thank you.
24	HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Miss Diers?

- 1 BY MS. DIERS:
- 2 Q. Strike 134, 135, 136, 137 and 138.
- 3 I'll go to 139.
- 4 On Page 16 of Exhibit 2 of your
- 5 prefiled testimony, you state that fishes identified
- 6 as simple lithophils by Ohio EPA require
- 7 cobble/boulder substrates to spawn. Does Ohio EPA's
- 8 definition of simple lithophil include the
- 9 requirement of cobble/boulder substrate for
- spawning?
- 11 A. I believe it does. Because that's
- 12 their spawning habitat. I mean that is the
- definition of what a simple lithophil is.
- 14 Q. Strike 140, 141. One hundred
- 15 forty-two: The fact that the same ten species
- dominated the area before the current Com Ed/Midwest
- Gen Adjusted Standard went into effect as have
- dominated after it went into effect indicates that
- 19 the slightly higher thermal standards allowed by the
- adjusted standard did not affect the fish
- 21 population. What do you mean by slightly higher
- thermal standards? And do you have any data
- comparing the ambient temperatures of the Upper
- Dresden Island Pool, Brandon Pool, or the CAWS

- before and after Adjusted Standard 96-10 took
- 2 effect?
- A. With regard to the first question
- 4 which is what do I mean by slightly higher thermal
- 5 standards? I mean that the adjusted standard allows
- 6 the temperature downstream of I-55 to be 91 degrees
- 7 Farenheit at I-55 rather than the general use
- 8 standard of 90. And then in your question you use
- 9 the word ambient temperatures. In this system for
- 10 all the reasons that have already been described,
- it's difficult, if not impossible, to determine what
- 12 constitutes ambient in these waterways.
- And then, second, the adjusted
- standard applies only downstream of I-55, so no
- 15 changes in temperature would be expected in --
- MS. WILLIAMS: Objection. Can we let
- Mr. Seegert answer the question?
- MS. FRANZETTI: Well, Counsel, I mean
- we want an accurate record. I'm just -- He's
- misspeaking, reversing things. So I mean I
- can let him go on, but I think it's better to
- note to him when he's made a misstatement.
- Counsel, I think you need to
- establish for Mr. Seegert what the area of

1 the adjusted standard is that you are talking 2 about in your question. Don't put it on him 3 to interpret that, because I will need to 4 jump in and explain it. But it's your 5 question, and if you object to my 6 interceding --7 MS. WILLIAMS: It was a quote. 8 MS. DIERS: I was using his quote, so 9 I was asking about his quote. 10 MS. FRANZETTI: But now you're 11 going -- No. The second part of your 12 question. 13 MS. DIERS: You're asking about do I 14 have any of the data on the ambient 15 temperatures? You're going on to the second 16 Okay. part?

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MS. FRANZETTI: Yes. I think he's answered the first question. I mean I think actually we can move on, if you agree. think he has. I mean the first question is what do you mean by slightly higher thermal standards, and I think he's answered that. So the simple solution here may be if you agree to just go on to the next part of the

- next part of Question 142.
- MS. DIERS: Sure. That's fine.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Did you already state
- 4 it for the record? I'm sorry.
- 5 MS. DIERS: We're on the data part,
- 6 right?
- 7 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. Do you have any data comparing ambient
- 9 temperatures of the Upper Dresden Island Pool,
- 10 Brandon Pool or the CAWS before and after Adjusted
- 11 Standard 96-10 took effect?
- MR. SEEGERT: Okay. No. We have not
- compared ambient temperatures in the areas
- you're talking about before versus after
- AS 96 took effect.
- 16 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. And do you know if Commonwealth Edison
- 18 had variances from the Pollution Control Board prior
- to the adjusted -- the Adjusted Standard 96-10?
- A. I don't recall.
- MR. ETTINGER: What's your
- understanding of what the adjusted standard
- 23 did?
- MR. SEEGERT: Well, the adjusted

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1	standard gives them an extra one degree.
2	Instead of having to meet 90, they meet 91.
3	MR. ETTINGER: Okay. That's your
4	understanding.
5	MEMBER RAO: You think that was the
6	only change in the adjusted standard, or
7	there was some transitional temperature
8	changes also involved?
9	MS. FRANZETTI: I don't think this
10	witness is the best witness. I mean
11	Ms. Wozniak is the witness that is most
12	familiar with the elements of the adjusted
13	standard. If you wish, we can bring her back
14	up here.
15	MEMBER RAO: No. It's just that he
16	was describing what slightly higher meant.
17	Was he focussing just on the 90 degrees and
18	91 degrees?
19	MR. SEEGERT: Yes.
20	MEMBER RAO: And not the transitional
21	temperatures?
22	MR. SEEGERT: That's correct.
23	MEMBER RAO: Thank you.
24	MS. WILLIAMS: I think Ms. Wozniak

could help us with a clarification to --

MS. FRANZETTI: I don't think she can
help you with the question, because it's what
the witness used.

MS. WILLIAMS: The witness is implying that --

MS. FRANZETTI: Give me a second.

With respect to what the adjusted standard does, what it contains, quite frankly we can all read the adjusted standard. So, you know, I don't think there's anything to be gained.

HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: I guess,
Miss Williams, I would ask what clarification
are you looking for?

MS. WILLIAMS: I think his quote implies that when adjusted standard came into effect, temperatures went up and that we can infer something from what was the case before the adjusted standards to what was the case after in an environment, because legally the temperatures went up. So that, I think, is what this question was trying to get at. And if he doesn't know, then maybe Miss Wozniak

- can help explain whether temperatures from
- either in the waterway or from the effluent
- actually went up after the relief was granted
- by the Board. I don't know which witness is
- better to clarify that point.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Well, this witness
- 7 can't clarify that point, and this is a
- question for this witness. So I would
- 9 suggest we move on. He is giving you his
- answer of what he was referring to by a
- slightly higher thermal standard. That's all
- he can do in terms of -- for the purposes of
- this statement in his report.
- MS. WILLIAMS: That's fine.
- 15 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Let's move
- 16 on.
- 17 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. Question 143: You state on Page 18 of
- Exhibit 2, Ohio EPA 1987 plus the 2006 update
- 20 classifies fish based on their tolerance to
- 21 environmental perturbations such as decreasing water
- 22 and habitat quality. How are these classifications
- related to thermal impacts?
- A. We touched on this a little bit

- earlier. And, in this case, I don't believe that
- Ohio EPA specifically used thermal tolerance in
- 3 developing their tolerance classification. However,
- several of the species they list as highly tolerant
- also happened to be thermally tolerant. But they
- 6 did, so they just happened to be that. But they
- 7 didn't use thermal tolerance as one of their
- 8 end-point criteria.
- 9 MR. ETTINGER: And isn't shad one of
- the species they list as tolerant?
- MR. SEEGERT: No, it is not.
- 12 BY MS. DIERS:
- 13 Q. Question 144: On Page 18 of
- Exhibit 2, you testify regarding the number of
- tolerant, moderately tolerant, and intolerant fish
- species found in the Dresden Pool. What source or
- sources did you look to for classification of these
- 18 species? And why do you conclude on Page 18 that
- the preponderance of moderately tolerant and highly
- tolerant fishes reflect the degraded habitat of
- 21 Dresden Pool? I'll stop there for now.
- 22 A. Okay. We also touched on this, but as
- indicated on the -- in the report, we used the
- tolerance classification system developed by Ohio

- 1 EPA. We did that because it covers most, if not
- all, of the fish species that are in the system. So
- 3 even though it was developed in Ohio, I'd say it has
- 4 direct applicability here. And then following up in
- 5 terms of how I reached this conclusion, the species
- 6 assemblage in Dresdon Pool is more consistent with
- 7 what you'd expect for a habitat degraded area than
- 8 an area that is thermally or DO limited. As an
- 9 example, blunt-nose minnow, according to Mr. Yoder
- or at least his rankings, is somewhat thermally
- sensitive, yet it's one of the most common fishes in
- 12 the area suggesting that the current temperature is
- 13 not adversely affecting fish populations. So in
- 14 summary the results we see are consistent with
- 15 habitat degradation. They're not consistent with a
- 16 thermal explanation.
- 17 Q. I'm going to strike 145, 146, and 147.
- 18 I'm going to skip 148, I'm going to strike 149, 150,
- 19 151, 152, 153. I'm going to strike 154 and 155,
- strike 156, 157. I'll let you guys catch up.
- MS. FRANZETTI: We are there.
- 22 BY MS. DIERS:
- Q. All right. You state that since EA
- has used the QHEI to evaluate many streams and

- 1 rivers in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and elsewhere,
- including the Lower Des Plaines, have you had any
- 3 training by Ohio EPA on the methodology?
- 4 MS. FRANZETTI: Counsel, he can easily
- 5 answer all those questions at once. Do you
- 6 want to just keep going?
- 7 MS. DIERS: That's fine.
- 8 BY MS. DIERS:
- 9 Q. Do you know if Joe Vondruska received
- training? Which EA staff has been trained to
- 11 perform QHEI assessments, and which ones have been
- 12 certified?
- A. We've all received training. Before
- there was a formal certification process, I received
- on-the-job training from various Ohio EPA staff,
- including Mr. Rankin, who developed a QHEI when he
- was with Ohio EPA. And so I have about 20 years of,
- 18 I guess they call it, hands-on experience using the
- 19 QHEI. Mr. Vondruska, another of our senior
- 20 biologists -- well, three others: Ken Cummings,
- 21 Marty Sneen (ph.), and Mike Kazinski, and have all
- been -- and myself have all been trained by Ohio
- EPA, and all of these individuals except for myself
- have been certified by Ohio EPA.

	rage of
1	MS. FRANZETTI: Just to follow up.
2	The individuals who you named:
3	Mr. Vondruska, Mr. Cummings, Sneen, and
4	Kazinski, have they all participated in the
5	QHEI work that's been done that is a part of
6	the data on which, Mr. Seegert, you are
7	relying in your testimony in the attached EA
8	report in Exhibit 366? Mr. Vondruska, if you
9	want to answer that, that's fine.
10	MR. VONDRUSKA: Mr. Cummings would
11	have participated in scoring the QHEI during
12	maybe portions of the '93 to '95 sampling. I
13	did most
14	HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Could you
15	speak up, please?
16	MR. VONDRUSKA: I'm sorry. For the
17	studies conducted in 1993 to 1995,
18	Mr. Cummings would have been involved with
19	some of the QHEI scoring in the field. I did
20	the vast majority of it. For the EA's 2003
21	study, I did all of that, and I also did all
22	of EA's 2008 study.
23	MS. DIERS: What year were you
24	certified, sir?

- MR. VONDRUSKA: I can't remember the
- exact year. It was in the mid '90s. The
- first certification process was through a
- 4 place called Volunteer Action Program, and
- 5 myself and another colleague were one of the
- first -- part of the first training group.
- 7 Since that time Mr. Cummings and
- Mr. Kazinski, they're part of the qualified
- data collector law that has been instituted
- in Ohio, and they have been certified by that
- 11 process.
- 12 BY MS. DIERS:
- 13 Q. Thank you. Strike 158, 159, 160, 161,
- 14 162, 163, and 164. I'm going to go to 165.
- On Page 30 of Exhibit 2 being the
- second paragraph of your prefiled testimony, you
- state that in your year 2008 survey of Upper Dresden
- 18 Island Pool, silt was moderate to heavy at
- 19 66 percent of locations and the imbeddedness was
- 20 moderate to extensive at 66 percent of locations.
- 21 Do these results indicate that silt and imbeddedness
- were less than moderate at 34 percent of locations
- in Upper Dresden Island Pool?
- A. And by less than, I assume you mean

- 1 better than moderate?
- Q. Yes.
- A. Then based on that assumption, about a
- 4 third of the locations had normal amounts of silt,
- 5 basically two-thirds of the location had excessive
- 6 amounts of silt.
- 7 Q. One hundred sixty-six: What quantity
- of silt represents a moderate condition and what
- 9 quantity of silt represents a heavy condition?
- 10 A. Okay. Again, here we're relying
- directly on the protocol document that Ohio EPA
- issued in 2006. So it's not -- definition is that
- we may not, but we're just following the rules of
- the game. And according to that document, and this
- is a direct quote, it says heavy means that nearly
- the entire stream is layered with a deep covering of
- 17 silt. And then in parentheses, it says pools/glides
- in all but the fastest area of the riffles, closed
- parentheses, period. And then it goes on to define
- 20 moderate. It says moderate means extensive covering
- 21 by silt, but with some areas of the cleaner
- substrates; and then it says, for example, riffles.
- 23 So basically moderate means there's extensive silt,
- but generally the riffles, because of the velocity

- of the water, are going to be relatively silt free.
- 2 However, in the heavy condition everything is silted
- 3 in.
- Q. And Question 167, what quantitative
- 5 amount of embeddedness represents a moderate
- 6 condition? And then what quantitative amount of
- 7 embeddedness represents an extensive condition?
- 8 A. Okay. Again, this is going to be
- 9 coming directly from the Ohio EPA guidance document
- which is what we followed. And it says, quote,
- embeddedness is the degree that cobble, gravel, and
- 12 boulder substrates are surrounded, impacted in, or
- 13 covered by fine materials such as sand and silt.
- 14 And then it continues on. Substrates should be
- considered imbedded if greater than 50 percent of
- the surface of the substrates are imbedded in fine
- material. And it continues, imbedded substrates
- cannot be easily dislodged. If you go to grab a
- 19 rock and you can't pull it up, it's imbedded. And
- then they continue on the same document defines the
- 21 following categories of embeddedness. Extensive
- means 75 percent of the site area, 75 percent or
- more of the site area has embedded substrates. They
- define moderate embeddedness between 50 and 75

- 1 percent of the area is embedded. And they're saying
- the normal condition would be less than 25 percent.
- 3 So, in this case, you're going to look at how much
- 4 of the total area you're surveying is embedded and
- 5 then put it into one of those percentage categories.
- Q. And, 168, is the Clean Water Act
- 7 interim aquatic-life goal not attainable if the
- 8 amount of silt is moderate or greater?
- 9 A. Well, I think that that's going to
- depend on the water body in question. Silt is
- certainly a major factor. But the presence of silt
- is just one potentially limiting factor that may
- 13 prevent attainment of Clean Water Act goals. Here
- the presence of silt with all the other limiting
- 15 factors that I've mentioned prevents attainment of
- 16 Clean Water Act goals, and in this case I cannot
- separate out the presence of silt because of all the
- other factors that are going on and say this is --
- 19 90 percent of the problem here is due to silt. And
- so I can't really speculate as to any particular
- 21 water body can attain the Clean Water Act goal if
- 22 silt is moderate or greater. It would depend on the
- circumstances, what are the other factors in the
- 24 water body, and also what the water body type is.

- Q. Question 169. On Page 30 of
- 2 Exhibit 2, second paragraph of your prefiled
- 3 testimony, you state that in the year 2008 survey of
- 4 Upper Dresden Island Pool, silt was the only
- 5 substrate at 24 percent of locations. At these 24
- 6 percent of locations, did you observe the entire
- 7 stream bottom?
- A. Within each sampling zone, yes.
- 9 Q. I'm going to strike 170, 171 and 172,
- 10 and make sure no one else has anything else. I have
- 11 nothing further. Thank you, Mr. Seegert?
- 12 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: All right.
- We'll go ahead and move on to Environmental
- 14 Law Policy Center.
- MR. ETTINGER: Off the record for a
- second.
- 17 (Off the record.)
- MS. FRANZETTI: I actually wanted to
- ask a couple of IEPA's questions that they
- skipped. The first one is 36. Besides
- Midwest Generation, what other industrial
- facilities has EA conducted aquatic studies
- 23 for?
- MR. SEEGERT: Well, in round numbers,

1 we collect -- or we conduct about 20 aquatic 2 studies per year, and we've been in the 3 Chicago area for 30 years. So a reasonable 4 estimate would be about 600 studies, and 5 we've done that for a whole variety of both 6 private sector companies, but also state 7 agencies. Just some examples, I work for 8 many utilities: American Electric Power, WE 9 Energy, Dairy Land Power, Hosier Energy, Duke 10 within Illinois, Amron; also worked for 11 I previously companies like Bethlehem Steel. 12 mentioned Acme Steel, BP Chemical, BP Oil, 13 Coeur d'Alene Mining, blue Ridge Paper. 14 it's not just working for the private sector. 15 We've done studies for the Illinois DNR, for 16 the City of Springfield, for Claremont County 17 in Ohio, for the Northeast Ohio Sewer 18 District in Cleveland studying places like 19 the Cuyahoga River. So it pretty much runs 20 the gamut, but many, many biological studies. 21 MS. WILLIAMS: Mr. Seegert, I think 22 you said state agencies. I don't know if I 23 heard a state agency named in your list.

MS. FRANZETTI:

I think I heard the

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1	Illinois DNR.
2	MS. WILLIAMS: Right. But can you be
3	specific about what you did for them.
4	MR. SEEGERT: I did I shouldn't
5	just say I. EA did, but I was the lead
6	person on doing endangered species studies.
7	We looked for a couple different endangered
8	species on their behalf.
9	MS. WILLIAMS: Any other state
10	agencies you can think of?
11	MR. SEEGERT: Pardon?
12	MS. WILLIAMS: Any other state
13	agencies you can think of?
14	MR. SEEGERT: Not state. I did also
15	get I know it's not state, but we've done
16	several projects for various corps of
17	engineer districts, but I'm not Oh, and
18	we've done work for the Indiana Department of
19	Transportation.
20	MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.
21	MS. FRANZETTI: And given that there's
22	been a lot of reference to Ohio, these
23	classification systems, Ohio IBI, I want to
24	ask Question 37. What Ohio streams has EA
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1 reviewed with respect to use attainment and 2 nonattainment?

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3 MR. SEEGERT: The Muskegon River, which involved multiple locations -- probably 5 about 15 locations, the Portage River, again, 6 multiple locations; the Ottawa River, multiple locations; the Great Miami River, multiple locations; the east fork of the Little Miami River, multiple locations; Hurford Run, multiple locations; the Scioto River, that's the river that runs through Columbus, Ohio, multiple locations; the leading system in southeastern Ohio, many locations. We had a network of about 25 locations that we ran. We sampled annually for about a four-year period of time many locations on the Ohio River for the Seward District in the Cleveland area. multiple locations on the Cuyahoga River, Dick's Creek multiple locations; Domer Ditch, west fork of Beaver Creek, multiple locations; Done Brook, Robinson Run, Flat Lick Creek, Big Creek, Mill Creek, Euclid Creek, West Creek, Shakers Creek, Miller

1	Creek, North Branch Dick's Creek, Kyger
2	Creek, Paint River, Pleasant Run, Kain Run,
3	and Kain is with a k, K-A-I-N, Brushy Fork,
4	Clifty Creek, Little Darby Creek, East Branch
5	Miamiville creek, Homer Run, Shaylor Run,
6	Shaylor is spelled S-H-A-Y-L-O-R, Wolf Gen
7	Creek, Clear Creek, Rocky Fork, Sugar Creek,
8	and I'm sure there are others that I'm
9	forgetting

MS. WILLIAMS: Where is the Mill Creek that you're talking about in there? Which one?

MR. SEEGERT: Mill Creek. Was that one of the ones that you guys did for certification?

MR. VONDRUSKA: That was one of the ones.

MR. SEEGERT: As part of this certification process that we were talking about for the QHEI, that Ohio doesn't just sit you in a classroom, they require — they say, okay, you do the classroom stuff and then you have to go out on your own and on your own nickel, I might add, and collect —

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1	and do whatever they want you to do whether
2	it's QHEI or fish. So our guys had to go
3	around to different streams which they had
4	already sampled and then our scores have to
5	agree within a certain range of the scores.
6	So I believe this was Marty Sneen, one of the
7	individuals I said was certified when he went
8	through his certification process. That was
9	one of the reference streams that he went to.
10	MS. WILLIAMS: Where?
11	MR. SEEGERT: I don't know where it is
12	in Ohio. I can't even speculate because
13	there are a lot of Mill Creeks,
14	MS. WILLIAMS: I want to know if it's
15	the one that runs behind my mom's house.
16	MR. SEEGERT: Yeah, I think he stopped
17	in there for a bite to eat. I'm not sure.
18	MR. VONDRUSKA: Is it in North
19	Columbus?
20	MS. FRANZETTI: I have no further
21	questions.
22	HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: All right.
23	Let's take about 15 minutes, come back, and
24	we'll power through.

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                                         (Short break taken.)
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