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Providing a Better Environment for South Central DuPage County

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MAR 11 2002

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

March 5, 2002

Marie Tipsord, Attorney
Hearing Officer
Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 West Randolph, Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601

P.C. #15

Re: R02-11
Water Quality Triennial Review

Dear Ms. Tipsord:

The Downers Grove Sanitary District submits the following comments in support of the proposed amendment to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.120. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has proposed to amend 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.120 by adding a new paragraph (g) which states that compliance with the 5-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅) standards in this section will be determined by the analysis of 5-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅). The District supports this proposed amendment and the written testimony of Michael Callahan, filed with the Illinois Pollution Control Board on behalf of the Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies, on this proposed amendment. As stated in Mr. Callahan's testimony, this amendment does not represent a relaxation of effluent standards but rather updates the terminology in this regulation to reflect the current use of the CBOD₅ test to measure the performance and compliance of today's wastewater treatment facilities.

The use of CBOD₅ effluent limits was a topic of considerable controversy when it was first proposed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency nearly twenty years ago. It has now become the accepted compliance and performance measure in the wastewater industry. The Downers Grove Sanitary District offers the following observations in support of this statement.

The CBOD₅ effluent limits first appeared in the District's NPDES Permit No IL0028380 issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency on October 9, 1986, and it has appeared in every permit issued since that date. It is our understanding that the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region V has reviewed the NPDES permits issued to the District, as the District is considered a major discharger. Prior to the issuance of the District's most recent permit on December 31, 2001, the Sierra Club submitted a letter to the Illinois

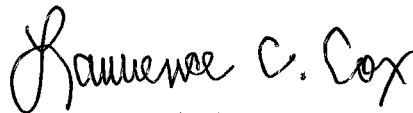
Environmental Protection Agency concerning nutrient contributions and the detection limit for cadmium. There was no reference in this letter to the CBOD₅ effluent limits.

A search of the Illinois Pollution Control Board website for the term 'CBOD' resulted in 34 matches. Seven of those matches pertain to the current proceeding. Seventeen of those matches involved provisional variance orders issued by the Board. Every one of these orders involved CBOD effluent limits and the term CBOD was often used in the same sentence as the reference to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.120.

The Downers Grove Sanitary District urges the Illinois Pollution Control Board to adopt the proposed amendment to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.120(g).

Respectfully,

DOWNERS GROVE SANITARY DISTRICT

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence C. Cox". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Lawrence C. Cox
General Manager

LCC/skh