

Therriault, John

From: Eileen Borgia <eborgia@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2014 10:20 AM
To: Therriault, John
Subject: Dynegy coal leach into Middle Fork

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April 23, 2014

Illinois Environment Protection Agency and Illinois Pollution Control Board

Testimony on Proposed Rules

I am a private citizen and a Master Naturalist. I volunteer as a trail steward in forest preserves, parks, and waterways, and provide education for children at nature interpretive centers.

I enjoy kayaking along rivers and in lakes. The Middle Fork of the Vermillion River flows between Kennekuk County Park, past the closed Dynegy Coal plant, and on to Kickapoo State Park, Oakwood Illinois. Numerous mammals, birds, fish and amphibians thrive here, endorsing the healthy ecosystem where bald eagles nest, feed and fledge their young.

As one traverses this pristine river with its ever-changing banks, I noticed that the water has carved deeper into the bank just below the site of the closed Dynegy Coal plant. Photos obtained by Prairie Rivers Network show that the unstable bank is a retaining wall for one of three coal slurry pits abandoned on this property by Dynegy. Last summer I noticed that a bright orange liquid seeped directly in to the river at this spot. That's when I learned that deadly coal contaminants stored in the unlined pit were leaching into the only river in Illinois designated as a National Wild and Scenic River by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

You have the authority and ethical responsibility to stop this illegal and wanton disregard for the health of wildlife, waterfowl, fish, and human beings who depend on the river for a healthful existence. Clear rules must be written and strictly enforced so that Dynegy and all corporations act responsibly to clean up after abusing land and contaminating irreplaceable water sources throughout Illinois.

*Sources: Prairie Rivers Network and Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Sincerely,

Eileen T. Borgia

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