

From: [Vance D. Wyatt](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Subject: [External] Public Comment: AS 2021-03: Adjusted Standard for the Waukegan Station
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 5:51:58 PM

Good Evening,

I am reaching out to you as the elected Treasurer of the City of North Chicago and a second-generation North Chicagoan regarding the NRG Energy site in our neighboring community of Waukegan, Illinois. The contamination at this site poses a grave threat to our residents, especially considering that many rely on wells containing groundwater.

Recently, the Foss Park District invested \$3 million to reopen and redevelop our city's beach, providing our residents with safe access to Lake Michigan for the first time in nearly 100 years. This effort has been recognized with the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association award for the best restored beach in the United States in 2023. Any contamination of Lake Michigan would not only impact our community's access to the lake but also threaten our drinking water supply.

I have personally witnessed the toll of environmental pollution, with multiple members of my family suffering from various cancers. The recent announcement of Eto as another pollutant in our area adds to the concerns. If Coal Ash were to enter Lake Michigan, we could see a rise in cancer rates that could devastate our community.

NRG Energy, as the owner of these properties, should be held accountable for the cleanup of the contamination, just as a resident or a city would be responsible for their own property. Anything short of this would be a complete slap in the face to the residents of our community.

I respectfully urge the Illinois Pollution Control Board to fulfill its duty to regulate NRG Energy and ensure they address the contamination promptly and thoroughly. The board has the opportunity and the obligation to correct this environmental injustice.

Thank You,

Vance D. Wyatt, MBA, ACPFIM, CGIP, CIMT, CPFA

City Treasurer

[City of North Chicago](#) | Desk: 847-596-8628 | Fax: 847-596-8629 | Cell: 224-419-4509 | 1850 Lewis Avenue North Chicago, IL 60064 | Treasurer@northchicago.org

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