

## northeastern illinois planning commission

222 South Riverside Plaza - Suite 1800 - Chicago, Illinois 60606 - (312) 454-0400 - Fax (312) 454-0411 - www.nipc.org

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Gerald Bullivan

November 29, 2004

From-POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Illinois Pollution Control Board 600 S. Second Street, Suite 402 Springfield, IL 62704

Re: Support of Proposed Phosphorus Regulations RECEIVED CLERK'S OFFICE

DEC 10 2004

STATE OF ILLINOIS Pollution Control Board

Pod-19

Dear Sir/Madam:

As Executive Director of The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission  ${f I}$  am submitting the following in support of the proposed phosphorus regulations,

A proposal by the Illinois EPA now before the Illinois Pollution Control Board would limit phosphorus levels to 1 mg/L in any case where a new: or expanding discharge is proposed which would discharge at least one million gallons per day (a' I mg/L limit means that each liter of water discharged by a polluter can only contain a maximum of I mg of the many phosphorus).

This proposal, if adopted by the Board, will reduce algae and bacteria growth that kills fish and other wildlife and can turn waters into green slime that is undesirable for swimming or other uses. While the proposal to limit new or increased sources of phosphorus is very modest, it represents the first real requirement to reduce phosphorus for discharges to streams in Illinois. Currently only discharges to lakes and tributaries to lakes have to reduce phosphorus. Prairie Rivers, the Sierra Club, and the Environmental Law and Policy Center have been pushing for such a limit for several years and strongly support IEPA's proposal.

Based in a thorough review by NIPC's Environment and Natural Resources Department and NIPC's adopted policies, I wish to express full support for the IEPA's proposal for an interim monthly average phosphorus effluent limit of 1 mg/L for many new or increased .... discharges. Not only is it good for water quality, but it is consistent with and required under current laws and regulations...

P.004/004

As you are aware, the Clean Water Act and Illinois law require that NPDES permits control pollutants that may cause or contribute to violations of water quality standards. It also prohibits allowing new pollution that has not been shown to be necessary. Therefore, limits on the discharge of phosphorus are needed to prevent violations of Illinois water quality standards and comply with antidegradation requirements. The Commissions also feels that controls are needed to prevent violations of the water quality standards regarding offensive conditions, pH and dissolved oxygen.

As the Agency's proposal is limited to new or increased discharges, such discharges are already subject to autidegradation regulations. Under the antidegradation regulations, lowering of water quality should only be allowed if it can be demonstrated through a consideration of alternatives and economic analysis that it is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development.

This proposal is good for water quality, and is achievable, as demonstrated by the longstanding and successful phosphorus limit of 1 mg/L established in the 1970's for any discharges to streams that flow to the Great Lakes.

I urge the Pollution Control Board to adopt the IEPA's proposed interim discharge standard for phosphorus of 1 mg/L.

Executive Director

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TO: Name/Title: Tel. Pollution Organization: Control Board Fax #: ( ) 217524 8508 Phone #: ( )	FROM: Name/Title: Ron Thomas  Fax #: (312) 454-0411  Phone #: (312) 454-0400
Remarks: Support leffer	- for
Proposed Phos	phorus Regulations