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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

P.C. # 24

September 3, 2002

Ms. Dorothy M. Gunn
Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 West Randolph, Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601

Re: The July 25, 2002 hearing before the Illinois Pollution Control Board (docket number R02-11).

Dear Ms. Gunn:

My name is Victor J. Santucci, Jr. and I am writing to comment on the above stated hearing.

I have a Master of Science degree from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, hold a Certified Fisheries Scientist certification from the American Fisheries Society, and have been working as a fisheries biologist for the past 17 years. The Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation has employed me as a Fisheries Research Biologist for the past 11 years.

I have recently completed fieldwork for an extensive study of the effects of low-head dams on the Fox River in Illinois. The study is entitled, "The Fox River Fish Passage Feasibility Study" and it is funded by the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources through the Conservation 2000 Ecosystem Program. The U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA provided in-kind support.

It has been brought to my attention that a preliminary summary of results of the Fox River study was previously submitted as evidence supporting substandard dissolved oxygen concentrations in the Fox River, Illinois. The data from this study show that substandard dissolved oxygen concentrations occurred in 9-of 11 impoundments created by low-head dams in the river. In contrast, dissolved oxygen in natural flowing reaches generally remained above the 5 mg/L minimum standard. Substandard dissolved oxygen occurred during summer low flow periods in August and September 2001. These data suggest that substandard dissolved oxygen conditions not only exist in the Fox River, but that they can be widespread during the summer months. I have no comment regarding the implications of these data on the need to revise minimum dissolved oxygen standards in Illinois. A final report detailing the effects of dams on fish, invertebrates, habitat, and water quality should be available in November 2002.

Thank you for accepting this clarification to the hearing record.

Sincerely,

Victor J. Santucci, Jr.
Fisheries Research Biologist