

June 14, 2003

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board
PC#10

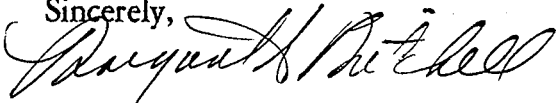
Ms Marie E. Tipsord
Hearing Officer, Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 W. Randolph St., Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Re: Public Comment on R03-19

Dear Ms. Tipsord,

As an Illinois citizen concerned about the conditions of the streams, lakes, and rivers of the state, I am glad for the opportunity to express my thoughts about public involvement in the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System(NPDES) permit process now being revised. Public involvement is the key ingredient for a strong, workable permitting system because it creates, in one word, understanding. With understanding the system has a much better chance of success. The Clean Water Act(CWA) of 1972 encourages such participation. To discourage caring citizens from involvement at any point in the NPDES permit system would be terribly discouraging as it would separate the citizens of Illinois from their responsibility as good citizens.

My hopes are raised as our great state of Illinois adopts improved controls needed to protect its waters from pollution. Citizens should be allowed and encouraged to fully participate in the permitting process. Make the rules clear, fair and just so they can be enforced by both the Agency and public involvement for all our sakes.

Sincerely,



Margaret A. Mitchell

9-0-5