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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

# Village of Manhattan

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December 1, 2004

*PC#14*

Ms. Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 West Randolph Street  
Suite 11-5000  
Chicago, IL 60601

RE: Docket No. R-04-021  
Revisions to Radium Water Quality Standards

Dear Ms. Gunn:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to the Illinois Pollution Control Board on this important issue to our community. The Village of Manhattan present population is a community of 5,000 residents located in Southern Will County. The Village is currently experiencing a large influx of new development which projects the population to grow to over 30,000 within the next, five to ten years. The public water supply at this time has two deep wells and two shallow wells with a annual daily pump age of 30,000 gallons. The proposed developments within the Village have additional wells and treatment to be installed to support the increase of demand to the water system.

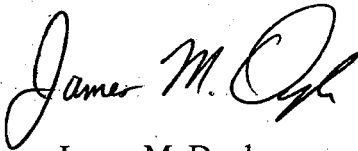
The current wastewater plant discharges into Manhattan Creek and has been doing so since the 1960's. Manhattan has also been praised by environmental groups for its efforts in the restoration of Manhattan Creek, as noted in a recent issue of the Star Newspaper by the Chief Executive Officer of The Conservation Foundation, "Here's this little town of Manhattan, and they have the best stream protection ordinance." The Village of Manhattan has worked with conservation groups on establishing effluent limits pertaining to orthophosphate that there will be no increase to the annual average after the present expansion at the current wastewater plant. The Village has also proposed to adhere to these limits at any future wastewater plants within the Village.

The Village of Manhattan supports the EPA proposal to allow the current practice discharging radium effluent. The Village is always open to communicate with the EPA or any group concerned with environmental issues. The EPA, water supply, and wastewater plants have worked with EPA regulations and have always been based on

science and not by a company's interest in financial gains. The Village of Manhattan supports the EPA proposal to allow the current practice discharging radium effluent. Radium is already being discharged to Illinois streams for many years with no effect to plant and wildlife. The EPA proposal of a no increase of radium would result in establishing a numerical standard to radium effluents. The EPA proposal has been libeled in some recent news articles that establishing the numerical standard would actually increase the amount of radium discharge from wastewater plants. This numerical standard would respond to Illinois residents that there would be additional pollution. The radium influent, effluent and the handling of biosolids has not demonstrated to be any risk to workers at wastewater plants. The Village of Manhattan is faced with the cost of implementing the new drinking water standards and wastewater standards which have been established over the years of studying the science of water and wastewater. The establishment of standards that eliminate radium in effluent discharges would increase cost of treatment dramatically without additional positive impact to the environment.

The Village of Manhattan would again like to thank you for allowing the Village to comment on this very important issue. I believe that we have made some sound and strong points and looking forward to the decision.

Sincerely,



James M. Doyle  
Village President



William L. Liszka  
Superintendent of Streets and Utilities