

December 15, 2006

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

PC#3

Dorothy Gunn, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph St., Ste 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601

Re: PCB 06-171

To Whom It May Concern:

The Piasa Palisades Group of the Sierra Club requests a public hearing on the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's water permit to Granite City Steel for their industrial discharge into Horseshoe Lake in 2005.

Because of the Sierra Club members' activity at the Lake, we requested the EPA to hold a hearing last year. They did not grant us this hearing; instead they issued the permit 14 months after the initial public notice. The Washington University Clinic's Engineers have found a number of things wrong with the permit, including allowing more than 3000 pounds of zinc to be discharged annually into a lake that is impaired for zinc, allowing double the cyanide allowed, allowing a mixing zone in a lake without flow. The lake has high concentrations of zinc, lead and cadmium in the sediment. It is also impaired for PCBs, pH, suspended solids, excessive algal growth, ammonia (unionized), nutrients, phosphorus, and total ammonia (N).

Granite City Steel supposedly discharges some of its sewage into the lake and we request an official Illinois toxicologist with the State of Illinois to look into the sewage-related problems in the lake and to make an official report. This lake is definitely not swimmable, but there are residents that think it is fishable. I have witnessed fishermen at the lake, during our semi-annual clean-ups of the lake, its tributaries, and the roads surrounding the lake. People fish at the lake and many eat the fish from the lake, including subsistence fishers. I have never seen a sign near the fishing sites warning the residents of the toxins and metals that are already in the lake, or a sign letting them know that Granite City Steel is hoping to pollute the lake even more.

It is a state park, with yearly attendance above 350,000. This permit deserves a public hearing.

Sincerely,


Christine Favilla
Three Rivers Project Coordinator