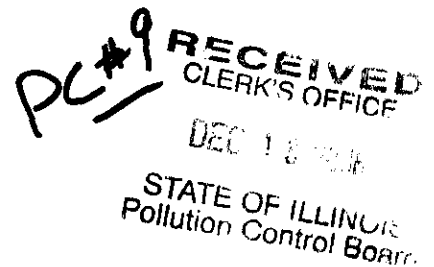


December 18, 2006

ORIGINAL

Deputy Clerk John Therriault  
Illinois Pollution Control Board  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph, Ste 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601



Re: PCB 06-171 American Bottom Conservancy v. IEPA & US Steel

Dear Mr. Therriault:

I strongly urge the Board to rule that Illinois Environmental Protection Agency should have held a hearing on the permit to allow Granite City Steel to discharge some 25 million gallons of wastewater per day, including heavy metals and other toxins, into Horseshoe Lake—an oxbow lake formed by the Mississippi River in the Great American Bottom.

There are so many reasons to hold a hearing in this case. The lake is part of Horseshoe Lake State Park, visited by more than 350,000 people a year, according to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, which manages the lake. People picnic at the lake; they fish, hunt, boat and bike at the lake. People walk their dogs, allowing them to drink from the lake. It is a treasure trove of wildlife species, 308 species of birds alone, more than any place in the Greater St. Louis area.

All of those are important reasons to hold a hearing on this NPDES permit. But perhaps the most important reason of all is that there are people who rely on fish caught from the lake as their main source of protein—subsistence fishers. I have talked to many while they are fishing—asking them about the fish they catch, whether or not they eat them, and what they do when they catch fish with “bad spots,” which look like pictures of fish with melanoma.

The answers would break your heart: “It depends on how many fish I caught that day. Sometimes I throw them back, sometimes I cut around the bad spots, and sometimes, well, ....” People need to feed their families.

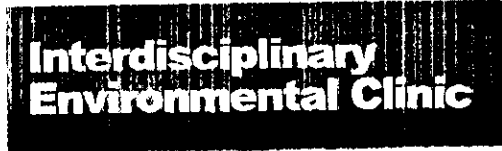
This is a state park where fishing is promoted. The lake does not meet federal water quality standards for zinc, phosphorus, pH, total suspended solids, heptachlor, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and ammonia. The lake has high levels of zinc, lead and cadmium in the sediment. Even some of GCSteel’s sewage is discharged into the lake. There is an Illinois Department of Public Health fish advisory about mercury. *But there are no signs at Horseshoe Lake warning the public against eating fish from the lake, especially young children and women of childbearing age.*

It is essential that the State protect our most vulnerable citizens. It is essential to have a public hearing in this matter. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

**Kathy Andria**  
P.O. Box 4242  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

Washington University School of Law  
Campus Box 1120  
One Brookings Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899



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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

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**To:** IPCB 312.814-3669      **From:** Ted Heisel

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**Fax:**      **Pages:** 6

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**Phone:**      **Date:** 12/18/2006

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**Re:** Public Comment In PCB 06-171      **CC:**

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