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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

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May 14, 2007

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pc#3

Illinois Pollution Control Board
Attention: Clerk
100 West Randolph Street
James R. Thompson Center, Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601-3218

Re: AS2007-2 (Petition for Adjusted Standard)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing to you as a homeowner in the City of Alton and on behalf of other similarly situated homeowners. We own homes adjacent to the property of Illinois American Water Company currently used for its Alton Water Treatment Facility.

I built my home on my property approximately 19 years ago. My next door neighbor's home was built approximately 15 years ago. We both look out from our property to a scenic view of the Mississippi River, directly over the existing Illinois American Water Treatment Facility. The area between the existing structures of the Alton water treatment facility and our homes is the area that would be used for construction of dewatering residual lagoons and the operation of those lagoons. My neighbor and I, along with approximately eight to ten other adjoining residences, will be the most directly adversely affected by the operation of dewatering residual lagoons in our backyards.

We are informed that the lagoon operations would include daily truck traffic adjacent to our residences to haul away the accumulated treated residuals. The evidence previously presented to the Illinois Pollution Control Board, and uncontradicted by any other evidence indicated that there could be anywhere from two truckloads to seventeen truckloads removed each day.

In addition to the truck traffic, obviously there will need to be heavy equipment on the site loading the trucks. By our agreement with the water company, Illinois American has graded, seeded and maintained the acreage which otherwise would be used for the lagoons and truck traffic in native prairie grasses. The maintenance of the acreage by Illinois American has created a beautiful, tranquil area that my neighbors and I have all have grown to appreciate and enjoy. In addition, all kinds of birds and animals have made that area their home or hunting grounds.

I also happen to serve as attorney for the City of Alton and the Village of Godfrey. As such, I was asked to review the previous orders of the Illinois Pollution Control Board entered September 7, 2000, and October 19, 2000. Obviously, a great deal of thought went into the formation of both Orders. I am not used to reading such decisions in my practice, but I was very impressed by the detailed analysis of the facts behind those decisions of the Pollution Control Board. The final decisions appear to be well reasoned and in the best interest of everyone. While it is clear that the Pollution Control Board stated that the adjusted standards granted Illinois American Water Company would expire in 2007, it appears clear to me that the Pollution Control Board and all of the parties involved intended that those adjusted standards would continue to be accepted if the goals behind the adoption of those standards were met between the decision of 2000 and the expiration of the adjusted standards in 2007. From what I understand, the goals behind the adjusted standards have not only been met by Illinois American Water and the Great Rivers Land Trust, they have been substantially exceeded.

I am advised and it appears to be true from review of the Orders of 2000 that the original goal was to achieve a sediment reduction flowing into the Mississippi River of 2 to 1. That is, the reduced sediment achieved by the efforts of the Great Rivers Land Trust should have reduced sediment from the Piasa Creek and other tributaries going to the Mississippi River by twice the amount of sediment and other materials going back into the Mississippi River from the new Alton Water Treatment Facility. From all I can gather, the Great Rivers Land Trust and Illinois American Water were successful in reaching a nearly 4 to 1 ratio of reduced sediment compared to materials going back into the River from the new Alton Water Treatment Facility.

I find it incredible and against logic that the Illinois EPA now takes the position that the adjusted standards should no longer be applicable for the Alton Water Treatment Facility and that all of the good work previously done shall not be accepted as a final resolution of the issue presented.

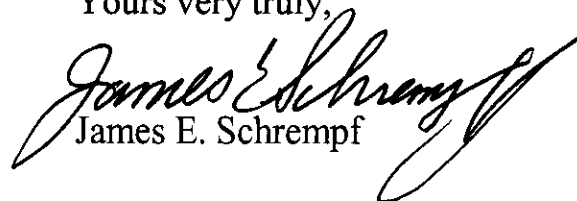
This program has worked beautifully. Such plans should be encouraged and not discouraged by the State of Illinois.

We do not want to lose the natural habitat adjacent to our residences by the creation of an operational lagoon facility. We do not want the additional noise and potential odors emanating from such a facility. In addition, we are all proud to live along the Great River Road which has been declared a Scenic Byway of the United States by the Federal Highway Administration. Furthermore, that Great River Road has recently been named one of the "Seven Wonders of Illinois" by the Illinois Bureau of Tourism. Why in the world would we want to encourage heavy truck traffic along that Great River Road? It is the only point of access from the Alton Water Treatment Facility to or from any landfills. Truck traffic to and from the Alton Water Treatment Facility now is minimal. With a lagoon system, it would be substantial and would be a detriment to the Great River Road. All that truck traffic would also have to pass over a well established and heavily used bike trail that follows the northern edge of the Great River Road, essentially between the road and the Alton Water Treatment Facility.

Furthermore, the City of Alton, with assistance from State and Federal funding sources, has established a new Piasa Park along the Great River. That Piasa Park includes a new Piasa Bird painted on the face of the limestone bluffs. The painting was done by a cooperative effort of volunteers from throughout the community. The new park is established, with restroom facilities, at that location. Piasa park also includes parking, which is utilized by people not only enjoying the park, but bringing their bikes to the bike trail. The truck traffic would actually enter and exit through the Piasa Park and its parking facilities. This is a horrible development, if it is required to occur, and will substantially interfere with the ambiance, safety and use of the new City park.

As a homeowner, and on behalf of other homeowners and citizens of Alton and Godfrey, I beseech the Illinois Pollution Control Board to extend or make permanent the adjusted standards approved by its Orders of September 7, 2000, and October 19, 2000, in this matter.

Yours very truly,


James E. Schrempf

JES:ll

cc: Mayor Donald E. Sandidge
Mayor Michael J. Campion
Senator William Haine
Representative Daniel Beiser
Mr. and Mrs. Richard McGuire
Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Eckhard
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Utterback
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher L. Kienstra
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur J. Kienstra
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Crivello
Mrs. Thomas Hutchinson
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hutchinson
Cynthia M. Hebenstreit, Director, Environmental Management Am. Water
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