

Electronic Filing, Received, Clerk's Office, August 24, 2007

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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3 IN THE MATTER OF:)
4)
5 PROPOSED EXTENSION OF ADJUSTED STANDARD) AS 2007-2
6 APPLICABLE TO ILLINOIS-AMERICAN) (Adjusted Standard)
7 WATER COMPANY'S ALTON PUBLIC WATER)
8 SUPPLY FACILITY DISCHARGE)
9 TO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER)
10 UNDER 35 ILL. ADM. CODE 304.124 AND 304.106)
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13 **TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL J. CAMPION**

14 **WITNESS IDENTIFICATION AND BACKGROUND**

15 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

16 A. My name is Michael J. Campion. My business address is 6810 Godfrey Road, Godfrey,
17 Illinois 62035.

18 **Q. By whom are you employed?**

19 A. I am the Mayor of the Village of Godfrey, Illinois, and a farmer.

20 **PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

21 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?**

22 A. I want to offer testimony on behalf of the Village of Godfrey in support of the Amended
23 Petition filed by the Illinois-American Water Company. I have four points to make: (1) to
24 explain the benefits we have observed in our community as a result of the partnership forged
25 between the water company and Great Rivers Land Trust; (2) to explain some of the financial
26 consequences I expect to follow if the Pollution Control Board denies the relief requested by
27 the water company; (3) to explain the beneficial economic impact of the water company's
28 contribution here in the Piasa Creek Watershed; and (4) to encourage the Pollution Control
29 Board to extend the Adjusted Standard.

30 COMMUNITY BENEFITS

31 **Q. What benefits have you observed in the Godfrey community, Mayor Campion, as a**
32 **result of the partnership between Illinois-American Water Company and the Great**
33 **Rivers Land Trust?**

34 A. I have observed a number of benefits. When the water company first contemplated entering
35 into a partnership with Great Rivers Land Trust, local residents in the Godfrey area and
36 elected officials from Godfrey and Alton came together to encourage this partnership. At the
37 time, the residents and elected officials were motivated because they did not want lagoons at
38 the new water plant, and they did not want increased truck traffic on our scenic highway, the
39 Great River Road, in order to haul residuals from the lagoons. So, there was an initial effort
40 involving the water company, an environmental organization, elected officials and residents
41 coming together for a common cause. That is good for our community. But after the water
42 company and Great Rivers Land Trust signed a contract and began work in the watershed,
43 good things continued to happen. Obviously, the environment benefited because projects
44 were put in place to prevent soils from running into Piasa Creek and the Mississippi River. In
45 addition, local residents (farmers, in particular) began to understand the benefits of sediment
46 reduction projects and took a real interest in having sediment reduction projects on their
47 property. I give the credit to Great Rivers Land Trust representatives for spreading the word
48 about those benefits. I have even heard that some farmers have sought out Great Rivers Land
49 Trust representatives to explore the possibility of sediment reduction projects. So, there has
50 been an increase in environmental awareness in our community, and I attribute that to the
51 partnership between the water company and Great Rivers Land Trust.

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52 **Q. What other benefits have you observed?**

53 A. There have been financial benefits to the community, as well. Engineering firms are needed
54 to design the sediment reduction projects and construction companies are needed to build
55 those projects. Also, I am aware that some of the farmers have been compensated for the
56 projects undertaken on their property. Expenditures like these are beneficial for our
57 community.

58 I also want to point out that the contributions made by the water company to support the Piasa
59 Creek Watershed Project have a ripple effect. It is my understanding that Great Rivers Land
60 Trust has been awarded some grants by public and private entities to further support work in
61 our watershed. These grants were obtained because the Piasa Creek Watershed Project has
62 been so successful. I do not believe the project would have been successful without the
63 contributions of Illinois-American Water Company.

FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES

65 **Q. Do you believe there will be the financial consequences if the Pollution Control Board
66 does not extend the Adjusted Standard, Mayor Campion?**

67 A. I am concerned that if the Adjusted Standard is not extended and lagoons have to be built to
68 treat wastewater, it will mean higher water rates for Godfrey residents. Lagoons and the
69 residual-handling that comes with lagoons at a treatment facility like the Alton plant are more
70 expensive than the direct discharge option. These additional costs ultimately would be passed
71 on to our local water ratepayers.

THE BOARD SHOULD EXTEND THE ADJUSTED STANDARD

73 **Q. Is there anything else you would like to tell the Board regarding the request to extend
74 the Adjusted Standard?**

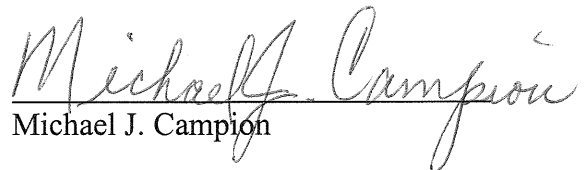
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75 A. Yes. We have had seven successful years of reducing soil discharges into Piasa Creek and the
76 Mississippi River. I want to see that progress continued. One of the projects implemented by
77 Great Rivers Land Trust has been the reconstruction of Boy Scout Lake, which had been
78 nothing more than a dry lake bed for years due to the build up of sedimentation. As I
79 understand it, there are at least 40 other projects in the watershed as well. All of them result
80 in a direct benefit to the water quality in Piasa Creek and the Mississippi River. None of this
81 would have happened without the Adjusted Standard. If Illinois-American Water will
82 continue to fund more projects through 2010, and maintain projects to keep the 2 to 1 offset,
83 as they promise to do, there will be an even greater environmental benefit in our community.
84 We need it.

85 I also want to point out that the discharge of residuals into the Mississippi River by the water
86 company has been the practice here for more than 100 years. It is my understanding that this
87 direct discharge practice does not negatively effect the river environment. The water
88 company is discharging back into the river only what it originally removed from the river.
89 I hope the Pollution Control Board will consider this testimony and approve Illinois-American
90 Water Company's Petition for extending the Adjusted Standard. It makes sense for local
91 residents in Godfrey. It makes no sense to disallow it, after seven successful years and the
92 many benefits to local residents and the local environment.

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Michael J. Campion

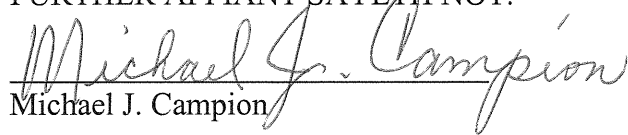
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF MADISON)

AFFIDAVIT

I, Michael J. Champion, after being duly sworn on oath, state that the foregoing Testimony is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.


Michael J. Champion

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to

before me this 21st day

of August, 2007


NOTARY PUBLIC

