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BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:	CLERK'S OFFICE
	SEP 0 8 2009
WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AND) STATE OF ILLINOIS Pollution Control Board
EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS FOR)
THE CHICAGO AREA WATERWAY)
SYSTEM AND THE LOWER)
DES PLAINES RIVER:) No. R08-9
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO)
35 Ill. Adm. Code Parts)
301, 302, 303 and 304)

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had before the ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD held on August 14, 2009, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. at the Thompson Center, Room-9-40, Chicago, Illinois.

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APPEARANCES:
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     ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD:
     MS. MARIE TIPSORD, Hearing Officer
     MR. THOMAS E. JOHNSON, Member
     MS. ALISA LIU, Environmental Scientist
     MR. LIN SHUNDAR, Member
 8
     MS. ANDREA MOORE, Member
10
     ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY:
     Ms. Stefanie Diers
11
12
     Ms. Deborah Williams
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     ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY CENTER
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18
     BY: MR. ALBERT ETTINGER and JESSICA DEXTER
19
         Appeared on behalf of ELPC, Prairie Rivers
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           Network and Sierra Club;
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Page 3 APPEARANCE CONTINUED: BARNES & THORNBURG LLP One North Wacker Drive, Suite 4400 Chicago, Illinois 60606-2833 (312 357-1313 BY: MS. FRANZETTI Appeared on behalf of the MWRDGC.

1	CHAIRMAN TIPSORD: Good morning,
2	everyone. My name is Marie Tipsord, and
3	I've been appointed by the Board to serve as
4	hearing officer in this proceeding entitled
5	"Water Quality Standards and Effluent
6	Limitations for the Chicago Area Waterway
7	System and Lower Des Plaines River, Proposed
8	amendments 35 IL Adm Code 301, 302, 303 and
9	304. This is docket number RO8-9.
10	With me today to my immediate
11	left is acting chairman G. Tanner Girard,
12	the presiding board member. To his
13	immediate left is board member Shundar Lin
14	and to my far right board member Andrea
15	Moore will be joining us. To my immediate
16	right is Alisa Liu from out technical unit.
17	Nicole Meyer will be joining us. She is our
18	extern this semester. She should be down in
19	a little bit as well.
20	This is our 32nd day of
21	hearings. We are continuing to hear
22	testimony from members of the public today,
23	and today the focus of the hearing is to

hear testimony from Dr. David Thomas.

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1 testimony will marked as an exhibit and 2 entered as if read. After marking the pre-filed testimony as an exhibit, we will then proceed to questions for the testifier beginning with Midwest Generation, and then I have the District followed by the IEPA, again, based on the sheer number of 8 questions. Anyone may ask a follow-up 9 question and you need not wait until your 10 turn to ask questions. I do ask that you 11 raise your hand and wait for me to 12 acknowledge you. After I have acknowledged 13 you, please state your name and whom you 14 represent before you begin your questions. Please speak one at a time. If you are 15 16 speaking over each other, the court reporter 17 will not be able to get your questions on 18 the record. Please note that any questions 19 asked by a Board member or staff are just to 20 help build a complete record of the Board's decision, and not to express any 21 22 preconceived notions that arise. 23 probably should have said this before we 24 went on the record, if anybody else comes in

1	and we need more chairs, there are plenty of
2	chairs over here. We can set them up back
3	there or over here on the side. And they
4	will have to sit in the front row.
5	Dr. Girard, do you have anything
6	at this point?
7	MEMBER GIRARD: Good morning, and
8	welcome to day No. 32. I see these are the
9	hard core participants on Friday morning.
10	We have a little smaller audience and it's
11	kind of like church, nobody wants to sit in
12	the front row. We look forward to your
13	testimony and questions today.
14	CHAIRMAN TIPSORD: With that,
15	Albert?
16	MR. ETTINGER: Did you swear in the
17	witness yet?
18	CHAIRMAN TIPSORD: Do you want to
19	introduce him before we swear him in?
20	MR. ETTINGER: This is Dr. David
21	Thomas.
22	CHAIRMAN TIPSORD: Thank you. Can
23	we have the witness sworn.
24	(Witness sworn.)

- DAVID L. THOMAS, PH.D.,
- 2 having been first duly sworn, was examined and
- 3 testified as follows:
- 4 MR. ETTINGER: I guess we will offer
- into evidence Dr. Thomas' pre-filed
- testimony.
- 7 THE COURT: If there's no objection
- we will mark the pre-filed testimony of
- 9 Dr. David Thomas as Exhibit No. 327. Seeing
- none, it's Exhibit No. 327.
- 11 (Document marked as Exhibit
- No. 327 for identification.)
- AUDIENCE MEMBER: Ten exhibits per
- hearing day it looks like.
- 15 CHAIRMAN TIPSORD: Pretty close.
- And then did you want to go straight to
- 17 questions?
- MR. ETTINGER: Yes.
- 19 EXAMINATION
- 20 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- Q. With that, good morning, Dr. Thomas.
- 22 My name is Suzanne Franzetti. I represent Midwest
- Generation. To my right is Greg Seibert, and I
- will be asking you the questions today, and they

- are basically the pre-filed questions by Midwest
- Gen. Am I correct in assuming that you have a
- copy of those questions in front of you?
- 4 A. Yes, I do.
- ⁵ Q. With respect to my questions, when
- 6 I'm referring to your pre-filed testimony, I am
- 7 referring to what has now been marked as
- 8 Exhibit 327.
- 9 With that, I'm going to begin
- with question No. 1: "Have you conducted any QHEI
- surveys in the upper Dresden Pool and/or in the
- 12 Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal?
- 13 A. No.
- Q. So we can skip the follow-up
- question. Let's move to question 2.
- Have you conducted QHEI surveys
- anywhere else?
- 18 A. Not formally QHEI. I have done
- 19 habitat studies, but not a formal QHEI survey.
- Q. And I will get to those habitat
- studies in the very next question. So let's go to
- 22 that.
- Question 3, "Have you ever
- 24 conducted any type of aquatic life or habitat

- survey in the upper Dresden Pool or in the Chicago
- Sanitary & Ship Canal?"
- A. Yes. I think it was 1991 I was
- 4 invited up to Chicago by Dick Lanyon (phonetic) of
- the District to do a survey of some of the Chicago
- waterways, specifically to look at whether there
- 7 might be some opportunities for habitat
- 8 improvement. So we started at the Stickney plant
- 9 and went upstream from there. We did get up into
- the north channel of the Chicago River. I don't
- believe we got to the Cal Sag. So we did a
- portion of the Chicago waterways, but not all of
- them. So that was probably the first time that I
- had been on the waterways themselves to actually
- look specifically at habitat. And, of course when
- you are looking at it visually, you are looking at
- shore line habitat, those things that are visible
- obviously from the surface.
- I have also been involved in
- studies since 1985 in the Calumet system. So at
- least in that part of the system I've been very
- involved in, not what you might specifically call
- habitat studies for fish, but looking at
- contaminant levels and sediments, and the impacts

- on aquatic wild. Then more recently I have been
- on the waterway system again for looking at
- habitats which was a more recent trip before this
- 4 hearing.
- ⁵ Q. Was this most recent trip in
- 6 preparation for this hearing?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. Let me just go back and ask
- you some follow-up questions regarding that
- 10 answer.
- So in 1991 you conducted a
- survey that started at the Stickney plant?
- A. Correct.
- Q. And went north of there, correct?
- 15 A. Correct.
- Q. So you have not conducted any
- habitat survey for that portion of the waterways
- included in this rulemaking that is located
- downstream of the Stickney plant, correct?
- A. I have not done any habitat surveys
- per se. I've been, a number of times, to the
- 22 electric barrier. I actually helped collect some
- round gobies with one of our grad students that
- was doing some work on the round gobies in the

- area of the electric barrier. I have -- last year
- I did spend a little time looking at some of the
- areas on the upper Dresden Island pool that I
- 4 could get access to from roads, and so I was able
- 5 to look at a few areas along that stretch of the
- ⁶ river.
- Q. With respect to your visit to the
- 8 electric barrier that you just mentioned, would
- 9 that constitute a habitat survey?
- 10 A. No.
- Q. With respect to your visit last
- 12 year, looking at some of the areas in the upper
- Dresden Pool, would that constitute a habitat
- 14 survey?
- A. Not formally a survey, but I was
- able to observe a number of the emergent weed
- beds, which I was surprised actually how extensive
- some of them are. I could see egrets out there
- and Great Blue Herons feeding on those, so you
- could get an idea how shallow some of them are. I
- 21 also saw areas where there were logs or other
- structures in the area that would be providing
- habitat for fish and aquatic invertebrates.
- So, no, not a formal study, but at least being

- able to evaluate some of the habitat in that pool.
- Q. Can we get a little more specific.
- 3 Approximately how many areas of the upper Dresden
- 4 Pool did you visit?
- 5 A. I might have been able to get to
- 6 like four -- four or five.
- 7 Q. Can you give me a description of
- where those areas were within the upper Dresden
- 9 Pool?
- 10 A. Well, I was very interested in
- 11 looking at the spillway area below the Brandon
- lochs and dam, and I was actually quite impressed
- by the amount of habitat that is available there.
- Lots of cormorants and egrets and herons feeding
- on fish. I was able to get in by --
- 16 Q. I'm going stop you just for a moment
- there. So you saw cormorants and egrets eating
- 18 fish there?
- 19 A. That's mostly what they feed on.
- Q. What did you see in terms of
- 21 habitat?
- A. There was a fair amount of emergent
- vegetation in places, in some of the ripple areas.
- Obviously, a lot of shallow habitat. But a pretty

- 1 major ripple area that's available to the pool
- 2 downstream.
- Q. And this pretty major ripple area,
- 4 as you describe it, is in the spillway area just
- 5 below the Brandon loch and the dam?
- 6 A. That's correct.
- 7 Q. Okay. That was one of the areas,
- 8 and that's the habitat you observed. Can you move
- 9 to one of the other areas that you went to
- concerning a habitat that you observed?
- 11 A. I'm not sure I have my notes.
- 12 Q. I'm sorry, Dr. Thomas, before you
- do, can you give us some aerial estimate -- strike
- 14 that.
- About what size area are you
- talking about as having this emergent vegetation,
- major ripple area?
- A. Well, I think there's actual data in
- the record. EA has done a lot work there
- obviously. I think if -- someone correct me --
- but I think I remember there's like seven percent
- of the total pool area is considered part of that
- 23 ripple habitat. If I remember the figure right
- out of the EA report --

- MR. ETTINGER: Well, she asked a
- question. It doesn't help her to tell her
- what's in the EA report. I think her
- question is directed to what you would have
- estimated having seen yourself.
- 6 BY THE WITNESS:
- 7 A. I don't know how to put how many
- 8 acres it was. I suppose it looked like an acre.
- 9 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- Q. All right. Let's move on to one of
- the other four or five areas that you visited.
- 12 Can you tell me where that was?
- A. One was at the casino.
- Q. Joliet Casino? I'm sorry, I don't
- go to the casinos. Is it the Empress -- is it the
- 16 Empress that's down there?
- 17 A. Yes. And there was an extensive
- weed bed in that area that I was able to observe,
- as well some of the shore line.
- Q. Do you recall what one of the other
- 21 areas was that you visited last year?
- A. I was able to observe some of the
- 23 area over the I-55 bridge north of that, and I
- think there was a fourth area, but I can't

- 1 remember where that was now. It was farther
- downstream. I was working my way down from
- upstream to downstream.
- Q. Was the other area below the I-55
- 5 bridge?
- A. No, I think it was above, but I'm
- 7 not sure.
- Q. In the area that you said was just
- 9 north of the I-55 bridge, what habitat did you
- 10 observe?
- 11 A. There was a fairly extensive weed
- 12 bed there also.
- 0. Would it be accurate for me, in
- terms of trying to summarize the habitat that you
- did see, to say that outside of the spillway area,
- just outside of the Brandon loch and dam, the
- habitat that you saw in these other areas was this
- weed bed habitat?
- A. Well, I would say -- fairly
- extensive weed beds in places. Also logs and
- brush overhanging and some of them into the water.
- 22 All of those are going to be habitat for fish and
- 23 invertebrates.
- Q. Now, I know you were saying it's a

- 1 little difficult for you to estimate the aerial
- extent of the habitat you are describing, but can
- you, as best you can, in the Empress casino area,
- 4 estimate, was that about an acre or less than -- a
- smaller area than the spillway area? However you
- 6 can --
- 7 A. I mean, you can see about a half
- 8 mile up and downstream. Obviously a more
- 9 restricted area in front of you, but you are
- 10 actually going to be able to observe vegetation,
- but I could get a good overview. Plus one of the
- 12 EA reports had lots of photographs up and down the
- pool, so I had some context to put what I was
- seeing with other areas that I couldn't get to
- ¹⁵ without a boat.
- Q. Okay. As you say, so you had
- referred to an EA report?
- A. Absolutely.
- 19 Q. As part of your preparation for and
- during these observations you made?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. Which EA report?
- A. It might have been an attachment to
- the testimony. There's a lot of colored

- photographs.
- Q. It might have been attached to
- 3 Mr. Seibert's testimony that's been filed in this
- 4 proceeding?
- A. I think so, yes.
- Q. Did you basically find that your
- observations in the areas you went to were
- 8 consistent with what had been reported in the EA
- 9 report you were referring to?
- 10 A. Yeah, I would say pretty much. I
- don't remember my overview description in those
- 12 reports of the aquatic weed beds, but it may have
- been in there.
- Q. Did you get into the waters in the
- 15 Brandon tail water area?
- MR. ETTINGER: What do you mean by
- get into the water?
- MS. FRANZETTI: I'm sorry. That was
- bad language. I wasn't asking if you went
- swimming.
- THE WITNESS: I did not.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Let me revise that.
- 23 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- Q. Did you go into the area known as

- the Brandon tail waters?
- A. No, I did not physically. I would
- have loved to have gone down there with a seine
- 4 and collect the fish, but I did not get into the
- 5 water at all.
- Q. Did you get into the area at all?
- 7 Did you walk along --
- 8 A. I was by the bridge there. There is
- 9 a bridge going right down below. I was on the
- bridge looking upstream and downstream.
- 11 Q. From the bridge?
- A. Right.
- 13 Q. So you did not wade along the
- shoreline looking at habitat?
- 15 A. No.
- Q. Did you in these other areas that
- you went to?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. So you did not wade along the
- 20 shoreline?
- A. No. Although as I said, by seeing
- herons and egrets out in the water, it gave me a
- very good idea of what the water depth was what
- where I saw them.

- 1 Q. Did you see the herons and egrets at
- all of the locations that you visited?
- A. I don't know if I noticed any at the
- 4 I-55 bridge, but I did at the casino. Of course
- 5 there were lots of them in the tail water area.
- 6 Q. I'd like to go back to -- you made
- 7 mention about being involved in some studies since
- 8 1985 in the Calumet system. You did note those
- 9 were not habitat studies.
- 10 Could you describe a little more
- 11 fully what type of studies you were referring to
- in your answer?
- A. Yeah. Well, probably from '85 to
- 14 almost '95 I was at the Hazardous Waste Research
- And Information Center -- at least that's what it
- was called at that time -- and we sponsored
- 17 research projects in the Calumet area almost
- continuously during that period of time. Some of
- those studies were done by natural history survey
- staff looking at sediments in the Calumet system
- 21 and the toxicity of those sediments.
- I've subsequently been involved
- with the City of Chicago and their efforts for
- habitat restoration in the Calumet area. So I

- have been down there a number of times. I've been
- on some of the pools there. We've had studies of
- 3 birds. We've had studies of contaminants and
- 4 Black Crown Night herons and also tree swallows.
- 5 We've done insect studies there. We've done
- studies on Purple Wood Stripe control. So I would
- say pretty continuously since '85. When I say
- involved times, it was in the supervisory or
- 9 review fashion.
- Q. Right, you weren't out there
- actually collecting the samples?
- 12 A. I was occasionally with staff that
- were doing collections, but that wasn't my primary
- ¹⁴ job.
- Q. With respect to those sediment
- studies that you referenced being conducted during
- the 1985 to 95 period for the Hazardous Waste
- 18 Research and Information Center, do you recall
- 19 generally whether there were any conclusions
- regarding the toxicity of the sediment?
- A. Yes, there were a lot of
- contaminants in the Calumet. And the interesting
- thing that I found, which I'm not sure how
- relevant it is here, but sometimes the sediments

- that appeared to be the most toxic to -- and these
- 2 are small organisms, test organisms -- were
- 3 sometimes the elements that didn't have the whole
- 4 suite of chemicals we were looking at. So this is
- one of the difficult things in any of these type
- of studies in nature is that sometimes what you
- are measuring doesn't necessarily show up into the
- 8 toxicity of the organisms you are looking at.

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9 MS. WILLIAMS: Can you explain that
10 a little more in detail, Dr. Thomas, about
11 why we find sometimes the most toxic
12 sediments aren't always the ones with the

highest levels? What factors go into that?

THE WITNESS: Yeah, I'll give you my little bit of speculation. There are synergistic effects between variety of chemicals. The other thing is even when you measure a suite of 40 or 50 potential contaminants, you may be missing something in there. We found the same thing at Vandalia, the old Joliet Arsenal. They were looking at explosives, and there were a few other contaminants identified there. But in

some of their studies they had the same

1 thing, that some of the lower levels of contaminants they were looking at, some of 3 those sediments tend to be more toxic than other sediment samples that had higher levels than the chemicals they were focused So it's hard to tell what's happening, whether it's -- you haven't measured a particular chemical that's there that may be 9 causing the problem or whether there's a 10 synergism between some of the chemicals 11 there that have made it more toxic. This is 12 why you end up going to laboratory studies, 13 just because you need to control the 14 variables. It's very hard in nature to 15 measure certainly all the chemicals and all 16 the variables that may be impacting an 17 organism. 18 BY MS. FRANZETTI:

- 19 Dr. Thomas, with respect to your 20 visit last year to the upper Dresden Pool, prior 21 to then, when was the last time you had paid a 22 similar visit to the upper Dresden Pool?
- 23 Well, other than going by it a few 24 times when I was at the electric barrier in some

- previous years, I made no other specific visit to
- go to that pool.
- Q. And while you were there going to
- 4 the four or five areas, did you examine the
- 5 substrates that existed in those areas?
- A. No, I did not, other than what could
- 7 be observed --
- Q. Well, when you say other than what
- 9 could be observed, what did you observe about the
- substrate in any of those areas?
- 11 A. Well, maybe I should say inferred
- 12 rather than observed because I'm assuming there is
- aquatic vegetation because they have a silt bottom
- that those weeds were growing in there.
- Q. But you made no observations
- yourself of the substrate?
- A. That's correct.
- MS. DEXTER: Can I ask a follow-up.
- 19 How these emergent aquatic beds that you
- have discussed, how do those beds compare to
- what you know about the rest of the Illinois
- Water Reclamation District of Illinois?
- THE WITNESS: Well, there is other
- information that I've relied on. One is the

Natural History Survey did a study of the aquatic vegetation in the Dresden Pool back in the later 1980's, and they actually documented the size of the beds then over a three or four-year period. There was actually a big decrease in the size of beds through the late 1980's partially due to a drought here, I think, in 1988, and they were also doing chemical analysis of the sediments and some chemical analysis in the aquatic vegetation.

relied on in thinking about the aquatic vegetation in this pool was the work by the Natural Historical Survey, which has been doing long-term electro-fishing studies in the upper Illinois -- actually starting from farther south, maybe near Havana maybe up into the upper Illinois since the late 1950's, so this electro-fishing survey has gone on for the state for over 50 years. And the biologists there tell me that the most aquatic vegetation for the whole Illinois system is in the Dresden pool area.

So they have the data from the other pools,
Marseilles and Starved Rock and some of the
others downstream, but the biggest aquatic
vegetation beds are in the Dresden Pool.

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MR. ETTINGER: I haven't had you read your testimony and background, but it might be useful for you just to explain what your role was in the Natural History Survey since we are talking so much about it.

Well, I had two roles THE WITNESS: actually. I started my career in the Natural History Survey in the 1960's as a field biologist working on the Kaskaskia River, so a lot of my large river experience occurred on the Kaskaskia, and then in --I'm bad on my dates -- but for the last ten years or so I was chief of the Illinois Natural History Survey. So I review a lot of the reports. I actually was out on the Illinois River electro-fishing and sampling with some of our crews at our Havana station and out of our four biological stations and also our station down in Dolton in the lower Illinois River and Missouri River in Pool

- 26. Because I was particularly interested
- in innovative species, I was out with some
- of our crews at times looking at the
- 4 invasive species issues in the Illinois
- 5 River. So that was an area of particular
- interest where I got more involved in
- 7 actually some of the data collection than in
- some of the other areas where I was more of
- 9 an oversight rule.
- MR. ETTINGER: And you ceased to be
- chief of the Natural History Survey when?
- THE WITNESS: The end of February of
- last year.
- MR. ETTINGER: Thank you. We're
- talking so much about the Natural History
- Survey, I thought I ought to explain where
- that came from.
- 18 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- 19 Q. Dr. Thomas, you mentioned the study
- of aquatic vegetation in the late 1980's. Is that
- study cited in your testimony?
- A. No, it is not.
- Q. Is a written report of that study
- ²⁴ available; do you know?

- 1 A. Yes, it is. I think actually it was
- done -- well, I'm trying to think -- I think it
- was done for Com Ed actually, but I could pull out
- 4 a reference.
- 5 Q. That's okay. If you have one handy,
- 6 that would be great. Just to try and give a
- 7 little more clarity to the record in terms of what
- 8 study this is.
- 9 A. Yes. It was the final report went
- to Commonwealth Edison Company of Chicago at that
- time. It was dated July of 1992. The title of it
- was, "Des Plaines River Long-Term Monitoring
- 13 Program, Vegetation Analysis and Habitat
- 14 Characterization." And the authors were Pamela
- 15 Tazik, T-A-Z-I-K and Steven Sobaski.
- Q. For the court reporter's benefit,
- would you please spell the last name?
- A. Sobaski is S-O-B-A-S-K-I.
- 19 Q. Now, you also mentioned --
- HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Excuse me,
- Ms. Franzetti. Is it possible for us to get
- a copy of that report for the record?
- THE WITNESS: I don't have the whole
- report with me. This is just a cover page,

- and I think maybe the executive summary. Is
- that what it is?
- MS. DEXTER: We could get copies of
- 4 it.
- 5 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: If we
- 6 could get a full copy of it.
- 7 MR. ETTINGER: I think it's about
- yeah big (indicating).
- 9 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: We can
- reserve a Hearing Exhibit now if you'd like,
- and you can give us the one copy as an
- exhibit.
- MR. ETTINGER: We'll get you a copy.
- I don't know that we want to supply a copy,
- too many copies, so we'll see how it is.
- 16 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Well, if
- you can get us a copy, we can always scan
- 18 it.
- MR. ETTINGER: We will get you a
- 20 copy.
- HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: And then
- people can get it from the website.
- BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- Q. Dr. Thomas, you mentioned there was

- also some chemical analysis that was there as a
- part of that study of aquatic vegetation?
- A. That's right.
- 4 Q. Would you please elaborate what was
- 5 the nature of the chemical analysis that was done
- 6 as part of the study?
- 7 A. They looked at metals, PCB's.
- Q. I'm sorry to interrupt, is that the
- 9 water column?
- 10 A. No, they were looking at those in
- the sediment. I think also in the plant tissue
- 12 itself.
- Q. Do you recall what they found in
- terms of the results of the chemical analysis of
- the sediments and plant tissue?
- 16 A. I don't think I could accurately
- summarize.
- 18 Q. Now, you also made mention of --
- excuse me, I'm sorry my notes couldn't keep up.
- You made mention of there being areas of the most
- 21 developed aquatic vegetation in the UVP. I'm not
- sure is that based on the studies in the late
- 1980's that we were just talking about for ComEd?
- A. Would you -- I'm sorry would you

- repeat your question.
- Q. Let me ask it this way. You
- testified that some of the most developed aquatic
- 4 vegetation is in the Upper Dresden Pool?
- 5 A. Right.
- 6 Q. What is that based on?
- 7 A. That's based on these long-term
- 8 electro fishing surveys done by the Natural
- 9 History Survey staff, which are yearly surveys,
- and that's based on recent observations over the
- 11 last few years for instance.
- Q. Are those quantitative observations?
- Do they contain a quantification of the size of
- the areas they believe have this most developed
- aquatic vegetation?
- 16 A. No, I think these are general
- statements. Within that pool, within the Upper
- Dresden or Upper Dresden Island pool, those are
- the most extensive weed beds they see anywhere in
- the Illinois River.
- Q. Now, we've been talking a lot about
- 22 these extensive weed beds. What type of fish like
- extensive weed beds?
- A. Good question.

- Q. We're trying to figure out what kind
- of fish can live here. So I guess we better get
- 3 to it.
- 4 A. Aquatic weed beds are great for
- 5 young of the year fish. If you are a small fish
- 6 worried about being eaten by other predators,
- finding shelter is really important so aquatic
- 8 weed beds become a really important nursery area
- 9 for young fish. You are going to find sun fish.
- Some of the basses in aquatic weed beds. You are
- qoing to find a number of your minnows within
- these weed beds.
- 13 Q. I'm sorry, is that minnows?
- 14 A. Yes.
- Q. So sun fish, some basses, some
- 16 minnows?
- 17 A. Your crappie. There's really quite
- a variety of fish that will make use of the weed
- beds. Some on a more permanent basis. Some may
- be just moving into them for feeding and then
- 21 moving back out.
- Q. Any other classes of fish besides
- these four that you've identified?
- A. Well, some of the suckers like

- buffalo, I think, you would find, but again, they
- 2 may be in there occasionally for feeding or
- 3 shelter or some other aspect of their life
- 4 history, not necessarily spending most of their
- 5 time there.
- Q. And why not?
- 7 A. Well, fish prefer different habitat
- 8 types and different stages. So some of them may
- 9 be in deeper water at times. Some of them are
- going to be in shallow water. It depends on what
- they are feeding on.
- Q. So generally do suckers and buffalos
- prefer habitat that is not this weed bed habitat?
- 14 A. The reason I'm hesitating some is
- because a lot of the areas in the large rivers
- where reflective buffalos and red horns and that,
- there hasn't been really aquatic weed beds for
- them to go to. So to say that I know how they
- would use it, I'm not sure that I could fully
- 20 answer that.
- Q. Okay, that's fine.
- 22 A. I do know that for the large mouth
- buffalo, that in the lower parts of some of our
- rivers it tends to use flood plane pools, and

- those pools often have more aquatic vegetation.
- Now, whether that's important to them in their
- lifecycle or not, I'm not totally sure.
- Q. So you don't know what the preferred
- 5 habitat is of suckers and buffalos, is that what
- 6 you are trying to tell me?
- 7 A. Yes, well, I have a general idea.
- But what I'm having trouble answering is what they
- 9 would use aquatic weed beds if they are available
- 10 to them.
- 11 Q. Okay. That's what you don't know?
- 12 A. That's how much I'm not sure.
- Q. Okay. I'm going to move on to
- question 4: "For the habitat studies and life
- history studies referenced at the bottom of the
- first page of your testimony" -- and I'm referring
- to the first sentence of the third paragraph --
- "'I have experience conducting habitat studies and
- 19 life history studies of various species of fish on
- large rivers,'" and it goes on from there --
- A. Right.
- Q. But with respect to the studies you
- 23 are referring to there, can you delineate which
- were habitat studies and which were life history

- studies? If anyone was both, point that out to me
- 2 too. But I'm trying to get an understanding of
- 3 how many habitat studies versus life history
- 4 studies you've done.
- 5 A. Well, you know, I'm not sure. I
- 6 mean, any time you are studying fish in the
- you are obviously studying the habitats
- 8 that they exist in. I go back to looking at the
- 9 definition for QHEI, which is really, I think,
- Rankin described it this way, as a rapid
- assessment tool used in lieu of large scale
- monitoring programs. I would say I've been
- involved in a large scale monitoring programs. In
- 14 most cases what I was interested in are the
- habitats used by specific species of fish that we
- were collecting at the time. Now, when I worked
- on the Kaskaskia River in the 60's, I was focused
- on some of the darters, the small, very small
- 19 fish, because I was doing life history studies on
- those, but we were also doing habitat studies on
- all of the fish that we were collecting there.
- 22 And in fact we were relating the distribution of
- some of our fish and the food habits of some of
- those fish to the populations of aquatic

- invertebrates in the system because we were doing
- a lot of drift sampling. Drift sampling is you
- put fine mesh nets in the water, and you look at
- 4 the invertebrates that are up in the water column
- 5 drifting, and lot of those are available to fish
- for fish food. So I'm not sure I could ever
- 7 separate it out. I never tried to do a
- 8 characterization of habitat without it being
- 9 associated with, tying it to the fish that were
- there. So I've tended to today look more from the
- 11 fish end and then look at the habitat and why were
- they distributed as they were across the range of
- habitats that were available through there.
- Q. So can you tell me what fish have
- been the subject of these studies you are
- referencing in your testimony?
- 17 A. Well, the Kaskaskia, there were up
- to a hundred species. I wasn't doing detailed
- studies of all of those, but actually I did food
- habits on following 40 or 50 species from that
- river. Again, my focus there was on darters.
- When I moved on to Cornell, worked on my Ph.D. in
- the lower Delaware River and upper Delaware Bay, I
- was focused on drums, cyanid drums -- just say

- drums. Some of those got up into fresh water and
- I was looking at their habitats and the food
- habits and how the habitats changed as the fish
- 4 grew larger. They changed their habitats. So the
- 5 habitat needed by the small young is different
- from larger young and different from the adult,
- and those were the types of things I was trying to
- 8 delineate.
- 9 Q. So was your study on the Kaskaskia
- 10 River primarily focused on darters?
- 11 A. Well, that's what my master's thesis
- was on. It was one group of darters. But as I
- said, it's part of my work on the river, for the
- survey we were looking at all the fish that were
- there. I also spent a lot of time looking at
- 16 flood plane pools and the river fish that utilize
- those. And in fact I have continued with my
- interest in those. We've had studies in the
- 19 survey of the last five, six years looking at some
- of the same pools that I was involved in studying
- back in the 1960's. So we've looked at how those
- pools have changed and how they've functioned to
- assist the life history of a number of fish.
- A number of fish come out of the

- 1 river during spring floods. They moved into these
- flood plane pools. A lot of them spawn there.
- They are nursery areas for the young. Some of
- 4 them move back. Some of them get stranded there.
- 5 But those pools are part of the life history and
- 6 part of the habitat for many of our large river
- 7 fish.
- 8 Q. You've used this term flood plane
- 9 pools.
- 10 A. Right.
- 11 Q. Can you give us a definition of what
- you mean by a flood plane pool?
- 13 A. Yes. Many of them are formed as
- oxbows on the river. If you remember, rivers get
- very sinuous and windy and the river will cut
- through and it cuts off, sort of a moon-shaped
- piece of river and that gets sometimes isolated
- 18 from the river and sometimes it's connected.
- 19 Those pools may get flooded every year or every
- few years during floods of the river. At those
- times of flooding, there's a whole variety of
- large river fish that move into them, and they use
- that for spawning and nursery habitat for the
- young fish.

- Q. Are there flood plane pools as
- you've just defined them in the Upper Dresden
- 3 Island pool from I-55 up to the north end of the
- 4 pool?
- 5 A. No, I think what you have in that
- 6 pool, which you also find in much of our rivers --
- Q. I'm sorry to interrupt you. "No,
- 8 there are no flood plane pools in the Upper
- 9 Dresden Island Area"?
- 10 A. I don't believe I would -- I'd have
- to check into that. I don't believe there is. A
- the typical flood plane pools, you have these back
- channels and other habitat that's somewhat
- similar. When I say flood plane pools, you have
- the whole variety of the connected back water area
- that's always connected to the river. Something
- far up into the flood plane -- and that may be
- only flooded every four or five years. We don't
- have that range of habitat out at the Dresden
- Island pool. But we do have some of the back
- water areas that I would assume, many of them,
- serve some function as at least a back water type
- of pool.
- Q. But you have not studied that?

- 1 A. That's correct.
- Q. Moving on to question 5. During the
- 3 12-year period from May 1985 through November 1997
- 4 when you were director of the Illinois Waste
- 5 Management and Research Center, did your job
- 6 responsibilities involve projects that focused on
- 7 aquatic habitat quality and/or aquatic biology
- 8 and? If you feel you've already referred to any
- 9 studies in that time period that qualify as having
- focused on aquatic habitat quality or biology,
- please just point those out to me. You don't need
- to repeat what those studies were.
- 13 A. Yeah, I did mention the Calumet
- studies. We also had studies on Waukegan Harbor.
- On Crab Orchard, and again, a lot of those studies
- 16 -- there were also studies up in Rock River. Most
- of those studies were focused on the effects and
- the role of contaminants on those systems on
- 19 aquatic organisms.
- HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Mr. Lin?
- MEMBER LIN: Most of those you
- contracted out the whole summer?
- THE WITNESS: That's correct.
- MEMBER LIN: So you are not involved

- in that research?
- THE WITNESS: Right. We contracted
- out various studies. Although, I have to
- say, we did work with a number of the
- researchers to sort of focus sometimes their
- studies. They had planned to address what
- we thought were some of the more pressing
- 8 issues.
- 9 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- Q. Moving on to Question 6, Dr. Thomas.
- During the subsequent 11-year period from
- December 1997 through February 2008, when you were
- the chief of the Illinois Natural History Survey,
- did you perform any field surveys of aquatic
- habitat or conduct any QHEI surveys of the river?
- A. Well, I certainly didn't do any QHEI
- surveys because our staff are really involved with
- the long-term monitoring. Let me give you a
- 19 couple things. I stayed involved in --
- Q. Actually, before you do. So I
- understand, no, you didn't do any QHEI surveys of
- the river. Did you perform any field surveys of
- the aquatic habitat?
- A. I was involved with survey staff and

- also with the Department of Natural Resources on
- their basin surveys of the Kaskaskia River. I've
- maintained an interest in what's happened to the
- 4 fish populations in the Kaskaskia Rivers, and I
- 5 still hope to put out bulletin from the survey on
- a hundred years of changes of fish population in
- 7 the Kaskaskia. So when E&R and the Illinois EPA
- 8 did their basin surveys of the Kaskaskia River, I
- 9 went with them while they did their electro
- fishing and surveys there. I also participated in
- electro fishing surveys on Prairie Creek that goes
- through the old Joliet Army arsenal. Lust Creek
- in Southern Illinois, did collections there. The
- 14 Illinois River, Lake Michigan, I've been involved
- with some of our staff in collections made there.
- 16 Q. Now, when you say you are involved,
- are you observing?
- 18 A. I'm observing -- when I'm in the
- 19 field I'm helping net fish or whatever needs to be
- done. I've also stayed involved by being on a
- couple of advisory committees. I was on the
- Nature Conservancy's Emiquon Science Advisory
- 23 Committee looking at the restoration efforts they
- 24 are trying to do there at Emiquon, which is in the

- 1 Havana area of the Illinois River, and I've been
- on the Illinois River Science Advisory Committee,
- which is an advisory committee to the lieutenant
- 4 governor's advisory council on the Illinois River.
- 5 So I've stayed involved in sort of river issues
- 6 through those.
- 7 Q. Question 7: "Please describe your
- 8 experience in handling projects that involve
- 9 constructing improvements to the physical habitat
- in a river and the resulting effects on the
- 11 aquatic fishing community?"
- A. Well, I'm not sure I can give you
- the resulting effects but from --
- Q. Let's start with -- tell me about
- projects that you handled that involved
- 16 constructing improvements to physical habitats in
- 17 a river?
- A. I'm just trying to think of the
- dates. I worked for five and a half years for an
- engineering firm in Boston, Massachusetts, and
- they did a lot of work on hydro facilities, small
- head hydros in New England, large hydro
- facilities, pump storage projects, and some of the
- work through them was looking at mitigation

- 1 projects, particularly for plum storage where you
- 2 have a lot of drawdown during the week of water.
- 3 And so we were looking at creating artificial
- 4 pools that would maintain water so when the water
- was drawn down, you could maintain shallower water
- 6 habitat for some fish, like sun fish and that,
- they could use them for spawning. So I have been
- 8 involved in some mitigation projects with large
- engineering projects.
- For your information on pump
- storage, I think most of you are probably
- familiar, but the concept is you pump water up the
- top of a hill when electricity is cheap, either on
- a weekend or at night, and then during the day
- when you have to meet peak power, you let the
- water come down through a turbine and generate
- electricity to make up for when peak power is
- needed. These have been particularly used in
- conjunction with nuclear plants that have to have
- more steady output of power. By doing that, the
- water levels are constantly fluctuating in there,
- so one of the issues was how do you -- is there a
- way to maintain some habitat so some fish can
- spawn or turtles could use the habitat for

- spawning. So we've looked at some of these pools
- 2 as a way of mitigating drawn down, weekly drawn
- down in these pools.
- Q. All right. Can you give me
- 5 approximately when that five-and-a-half year
- 6 position with the engineering firm in Boston
- 7 occurred?
- 8 A. Yes, I think it's in my -- I have to
- 9 look at my resume. It was in the late 80's.
- 10 Q. Is that '79 to '85?
- 11 A. '79 to '85.
- 12 Q. That's your position with the
- 13 Charles -- is it Chaz or Charles?
- 14 A. It was Charles T. Mae, actually
- bought out by Parson's Corporation now.
- Q. Now, did you get involved in
- creating, actually creating any of these pools?
- A. I didn't myself. We helped design,
- because I'm with an engineering firm. We told the
- engineers what we'd like to see, and then they
- worked on the design and then someone else did the
- 22 actual construction of the pools.
- One other project out in the
- 24 pump storage --

- Q. Can we stay on this project. I'll
- let you get to any others in the minute, but let's
- 3 finish this one up.
- 4 So you were involved in
- 5 designing them. Did they get built?
- A. Yes.
- Q. All right. Were you still there
- 8 after they were built?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. All right. So you do not know what
- the effects of those pools were?
- A. Right, and that's why I said I
- couldn't answer that part of your question.
- Q. That's what I was trying to
- understand the basis for your answers.
- 16 All right. Any other projects
- that you were involved in?
- 18 A. The only other one I was going to
- mention is there was a water storage project on
- the Delaware River that, I don't know, some of you
- 21 may have remembered, there was going to be a tox
- island built, dam built on the Delaware River. It
- was hugely controversial back in the 70's, I
- believe. That was defeated, but downstream water

- needed extra water during low water flows in the
- summer. So what ended up happening is they
- flooded a small valley along New Jersey along the
- 4 Delaware River. They pumped, during the
- wintertime and during the spring high flows,
- filled this reservoir, and then during the summer
- 7 when they needed water downstream, they would
- 8 release water from this reservoir. There was an
- 9 issue with a Bog turtle -- that's B-O-G -- that
- was a threatened and endangered species. So we
- designed some mitigation pools on that habitat.
- 12 Again, to provide habitat for these turtles for
- breeding. To the best of my knowledge -- I know
- that project has been built, and to the best of my
- knowledge they did incorporate some of those pools
- in the design.
- Q. And do you know what the effects
- were in creating any of those pools?
- 19 A. I have not heard whether they were
- successful or not.
- Q. Would you advocate -- are you
- 22 advocating here -- strike that.
- Do you believe here that
- creating these pools is something that could be

- done in the upper Dresden Island pool to improve
- 2 habitats?
- A. I'm not sure. Something similar to
- 4 that necessarily would be helpful. One of the
- 5 things that I have thought of though on the
- 6 waterways is that I think, and this is something
- 7 that Dick Lanyon and I talked about way back in
- 8 the early 90's when I took the trip, I think the
- 9 areas where there is a lot of riffraff and at
- least there used to be on the shore a lot of
- cinder block and cement and that, I think if some
- of those were put just off shore you could
- probably protect some of the areas behind those a
- little bit away from barge traffic and potentially
- create some, a little bit more stable habitat for
- 16 fish breeding or nursery areas for young fish. So
- 17 I think --
- 18 Q. How would you do that, Dr. Thomas?
- 19 A. I think you would need to create
- sort of a long thin dike or small island or
- whatever. You get almost some of that habitat
- under the bridges where you have pilings there and
- you have water on the shore with a side of those
- pilings. So you have a little bit more protected

- 1 habitat because those pilings attenuate the waves
- that are coming in from barges.
- Q. And have you seen similar projects
- 4 done and what their effect was?
- 5 A. I have seen -- I was just trying to
- think what -- I have seen some from the Army Corps
- of Engineers, dredging projects where they've made
- 8 islands or which is created habitat for birds, but
- also behind some of those they've created some
- shallow habitats that may be less effected by
- waves. Sometimes they will allow aquatic
- vegetation to grow or it will provide some
- different kind of protected habitat for fish so --
- that wasn't the original intent of the project,
- but that was the end result of some of those
- projects.
- Q. So are you inferring from Corps
- projects where they created an island that helped
- as a buffer to wave action that maybe the same
- thing could be accomplished if you built your thin
- 21 dike?
- A. Yes, but there's a lot of other
- simple things you can do. I mean, there may be
- 24 areas that are less depositional areas. In other

- words, areas where you don't have a lot of
- deposition of sediment where you could add just
- sand, for instance, or sand and gravel and create
- a little bit of a shoreline habitat.
- 5 Q. Can I stop you there and ask a
- question. What areas in the upper Dresden Pool
- don't have the sediments that you are talking
- 8 about that might be appropriate for adding sand
- 9 to?
- 10 A. Well, I think the reports say that
- there are a fair number of those areas. So you
- may not need to do that in those areas. Again,
- that would take an evaluation of the various
- habitats that are available and what might be
- limiting to some species of fish. But you asked
- what could be done, and those are all things that
- can be done. Whether they need or not to be
- 18 done --
- 19 Q. I'm sorry. I don't really mean to
- be talking in terms of just hypotheticals because
- what we're concerned about here is what can be
- done.
- MR. ETTINGER: I think part of our
- problem is we're again talking about the

- whole system, and you've been focusing your
- questions on the upper Dresden Pool. And
- some of your questions were directed to the
- area from Stickney up. So there may be some
- 5 ambiguity there.
- 6 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- 7 Q. I was trying to use upper Dresden
- 8 Island pool. So in the upper Dresden Island pool,
- 9 would you advocate the use of a long dikes?
- 10 A. I can't answer that it's needed.
- Q. Okay.
- A. All I'm saying is if there were
- areas where someone did a study of that, deemed it
- to be an improvement or improved fish habitat,
- some of these can probably be done at not
- unreasonable costs. That's all I'm saying.
- Q. And what you are trying to tell me
- is first there needs to be a study done of the
- upper Dresden Island pool to determine whether
- there are areas that would benefit from mitigation
- projects and to try and determine to what extent,
- 22 correct?
- A. I'm sure probably EA has that kind
- of data because they've been out on the pool.

- Q. Well, don't speculate as to what EA
- 2 has.
- A. But I don't have it.
- 4 Q. I understand. You don't have the
- ⁵ data --
- 6 A. Right.
- 7 O. -- on which to determine whether
- 8 there are areas in the upper Dresden Island pool
- 9 that would benefit from mitigation projects and to
- what extent, correct?
- 11 A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. Moving on to question 8.
- Have you conducted any field work that studied the
- effects of ambient water temperatures on aquatic
- species?
- 16 A. I find that sort of a strange
- 17 question.
- Q. Oh, yes. Why?
- 19 A. Well, ambient water temperatures,
- the effect -- I mean, what you see in most aquatic
- systems is, I guess, where you have a gradient in
- the natural environment, you may see fish respond
- to that gradient, but --
- Q. How are you using the term gradient?

- 1 A. Excuse me?
- Q. What's the meaning of the term
- 3 gradient that you are using?
- 4 A. It's when you have a range of
- 5 temperatures available to a fish. We tend to do
- 6 those more in the laboratory where you have a
- 7 thermal preference study, and you have an actual,
- what's called a gradient tank, so you might have
- 9 20 to 30 degrees centigrade available to a fish.
- You acclimate a fish to a temperature, and they
- will swim around and pick out an area that usually
- is close to its preferred temperature.
- In the natural environment it's
- much more complicated than that because they are
- probably not responding just to temperature. They
- may be in an area because of the food or they are
- getting away from predators for a variety of other
- 18 reasons. That's why I'm saying I didn't quite
- understand the effects of ambient temperature.
- I've seen fish kills in nature due to extremes in
- 21 temperature, but --
- Q. Okay. Let me just --
- MR. ETTINGER: I guess you are
- saying field work, and I'm not sure we know

- exactly what you mean by field work. Is
- that something formal or just his
- experience?
- 4 MS. FRANZETTI: No, I'm looking for
- a more formal study first.
- BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- 7 Q. Have you conducted or participated
- 8 in any studies of the effect of temperatures,
- 9 water temperatures on aquatic species?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 O. Tell me what those studies were.
- 12 A. Well, I worked for probably seven
- 13 years at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Station in
- New Jersey, and we did all kinds of studies
- related to their intake system, to their discharge
- system, to the movement of fish and their
- discharge canal, to the effects of heated water on
- 18 local movements of fish, as well as fish
- 19 populations in the Oyster Creek system itself and
- in Barnegat Bay, and actually have some
- publications related to that. So that was
- 22 probably the most extensive work I did was at that
- 23 plant. And we had -- we were not only measuring
- what was happening in the discharge canal, but we

- had an experimental trailer set up there where we
- would could run both ambient water and discharge
- water through tanks and look at behavior and see
- 4 what was happening to fish in a more controlled
- 5 environment in the laboratory so --
- Q. Now, what did you learn from the
- 7 Oyster Creek studies that is relevant here to the
- guestion of the thermal regime of the upper
- 9 Dresden Island pool? How are those studies
- relevant to the issues we're dealing with, the
- thermal issues we are dealing with in the upper
- 12 Dresden Island pool?
- A. I think the issues of fish
- attraction, fish avoidance, potential lethality
- due to entrainment through the power plant, I
- think all of those are pertinent topics to any
- heated discharge, and they would apply to the
- 18 Lockport plants, as well as any other.
- Q. Okay. Then take each one of those.
- Take the topic of avoidance. What did you learn
- 21 from your Oyster Creek studies that you think is
- relevant for the board here in looking at the
- thermal regime of the upper Dresden Island pool?
- A. There were times of the year when

- the fish avoided a good part of the thermal plume,
- and then there were times when they were attracted
- 3 to the thermal plume.
- 4 THE COURT REPORTER: I need one
- second, please.
- 6 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Why don't
- 7 we take our first break. Ten minutes,
- 8 please.
- 9 (Whereupon a break was taken,
- after which the following
- proceedings were had:)
- 12 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Do we
- remember where we were or do we need the
- court reporter to refresh us?
- MS. FRANZETTI: I'm there, as
- always.
- 17 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- 18 Q. Dr. Thomas, before we broke part of
- what we were talking about was your work with the
- 20 Oyster Creek nuclear station out in New Jersey.
- 21 And again can you approximate what year that
- occurred? For example, was that for the time you
- were working for the Charles Main?
- A. No, that was before then. It would

- 1 have been in the 70's.
- Q. And who were you doing that study
- ³ for? Was it for the utility that owned the Oyster
- 4 Creek station?
- 5 A. Yes, it was for Jersey Power And
- 6 Light, I believe.
- 7 Q. And did that study make any findings
- with respect to the impact of the nuclear station
- 9 on the aquatic community?
- 10 A. Well, there were lots of reports
- that were either submitted to the Nuclear
- 12 Regulatory Commission or some papers that came out
- of it. So there's a lot of different aspects.
- 14 I'm not sure I can summarize in a few words what
- the impacts were.
- Q. Do you recall whether any of the
- studies concluded that the thermal discharge from
- 18 the Oyster Creek station was having any
- significant adverse effect on the aquatic
- 20 community?
- A. Well, one of them I remember that
- 22 was -- let me backtrack.
- 23 Probably the most visible impact
- was actually from cold shock, and a few times in

- the colder months of the year they had to shut
- down the power plant. Usually some unexpected
- thing happened in the plant, and there were some
- 4 pretty significant fish kills. It seemed like two
- 5 Thanksgivings in a row I ended up having to leave
- dinner and drive up to the Oyster Creek plant and
- 7 count the fish that had been killed when the plant
- 8 shut down. And that's a case where the fish are
- 9 adapted to warm water. The plant turns off. All
- of a sudden the water is very cold. They have no
- place to escape to in terms of finding other warm
- water, and you get what's called cold shock of the
- 13 fish. So did that have an effect on the overall
- population of those species? I don't think
- anybody was able to measure that. But you could
- measure the number of fish that were outright
- killed. We also had estimates of the number of
- 18 fish killed on intake screens and going through
- 19 the plant in trying to --
- Q. My question was on the thermal
- effect in the river to the aquatic community. So
- I don't think entrainment is part of my question.
- A. Well part of mortality in
- entrainment is thermal, part of it is potentially

- chemical and part of it may be mechanical going
- through the plant for entrained organisms.
- Q. Okay, Dr. Thomas. That's fine, if
- 4 you think so. But with respect to the cold shock,
- so that happened a few times to that plant in that
- 6 period?
- 7 A. Well, two or three times over seven
- 8 years say.
- 9 Q. And you were saying that you could
- quantify the number of fish that were killed by
- cold shock, but not what the lasting effect was,
- if any?
- 13 A. That's correct, or population. It
- becomes a different issue to then look at, did it
- have a negative impact on the population, which I
- think may be your underlying question, and we were
- not able to demonstrate that there was any
- population effect. There was an effect on the
- 19 fish that were residing there, but on the overall
- population, most of these were coastal populations
- so we were not able to determine the negative
- impact on the population itself.
- Q. When you say you were not able to
- determine, did you make some attempt to determine

- 1 it?
- A. We looked at the population levels
- of some of the fish around the plant, and in
- 4 Barnegat Bay versus other populations up and down
- 5 the coast, because we had other studies going.
- 6 So, for instance, we had --
- 7 Q. Dr. Thomas, can I stop you there
- 8 because that's enough for me?
- 9 A. Sure.
- Q. So you were trying to do a
- 11 comparison after the cold shock occurred with the
- 12 fish populations of the fish in area of the
- nuclear station's discharge and fish populations
- outside of the area of that discharge, correct?
- And from that comparison did you find a negative
- 16 effect?
- A. Well, none that we could document
- statistically. The problem is in natural
- environments, the fluctuation of populations is
- great enough that you really need a very large
- impact to actually be able to measure it
- statistically. I think we found an entrainment
- effects, and this is the only figure I remember,
- that we need almost an 80 percent change in

- 1 population of a plankton organism for it to
- 2 actually show up as a statistically significant
- negative impact. So this is one of the problems
- 4 with some of these studies, it's difficult to
- 5 quantify because of the large natural variation
- 6 that you are dealing with.
- 7 Q. So there was not enough of an impact
- 8 from the cold shock event to measure any
- 9 statistically significant difference?
- 10 A. Population, right. There was
- definite impact on the population -- you have to
- define the population. If you looked at the
- population within the discharge canal, yes, that
- was significant because it was a large percentage
- of any particular species in the discharge canal
- 16 at that time. If you are looking at the broader
- population like stripped bass along the Atlantic
- coast, no, there was no detectable impact from
- 19 that, no.
- Q. Do I understand correctly then the
- bulk of the fish that were killed because the
- 22 plant shut down causing a cold shock were in the
- ²³ discharge canal area?
- A. That is correct.

- Now, just to finish answering
- your question about thermal, probably the biggest
- 3 thermal impact that utility ended up having to
- 4 readily pay out was because a tropical marine
- bore, a wood bore -- there's some boring. They
- 6 are called wood bores -- the invertebrate that
- bore into wood. It must have gotten in with some
- 8 ships coming in from farther south, and it got
- 9 established in the heat of a discharge canal, and
- actually some of it started destroying some of the
- docks and parts of Barnegat Bay, and that was an
- effect, not the kind of effect that you normally
- think of, but that was an effect of the heated
- water and that was something that could be
- measured in terms of the amount of destruction of
- docks, due to this more tropical wood bore that
- was able to survive in the discharge canal.
- Q. Dr. Thomas, are you aware of any
- 19 cold shock events occurring with respect to the
- 20 Midwest Generation stations either along the CAWS
- or the upper Dresden Island pool?
- A. No, I have not heard or read about
- 23 any.
- Q. Given your work for nuclear plants,

- although I'm not sure how much you are aware about
- coal fire generating stations, but if you can't
- answer this question because you don't know,
- 4 that's fine, just tell me, isn't it true that cold
- shock occurs primarily at nuclear plants because
- of their tendency to trip?
- 7 A. Well, I actually have worked at a
- number of coal fire plants, but I don't know that
- 9 that's true. I couldn't say.
- Q. Just a moment. Moving on to
- question 9. What do you mean by the statement in
- your testimony, Section 2, second page, first
- paragraph, that, "I also understand the argument
- that a QHEI score of 35 to 60 is a range in which
- waterways may be able to meet the Clean Water Act
- goal, depending upon particular characteristics of
- the area"? Does that statement in your testimony
- mean that you agree with that argument?
- 19 A. Yes, I agree with their basic
- 20 argument that it was a reasonable expectation for
- that system.
- Q. And what is the basis for your
- 23 agreement?
- A. Well, Yoder testified that these

- values need to be used in conjunction with the
- fish data, which I agree with, and I think the
- assemblage of fish species there indicates that
- 4 the potential is there to basically meet the
- 5 requirements of the Clean Water Act goal.
- 6 Q. Let me move on to the next question.
- 7 Regarding your testimony at Section 2, third page,
- first paragraph, the QHEI scores above 45, "Seem
- 9 to be predominant," in the UDP. Did you review
- the "particular characteristics of the area" of
- these scores, and if so, what did you conclude as
- to which ones may be able to meet the Clean Water
- 13 Act goal?
- A. Well, I have to admit I had some
- difficulty understanding the question.
- Q. Let me give you a little more
- clarification because I do want you to understand
- it and answer the question as it's intended.
- With respect to question 9,
- where you answered that you do agree that a QHEI
- score of 45 to 60 is in a range in which waterways
- may be able to meet the Clean Water Act goal but
- 23 it depends on the particular characteristics of
- the area. So my next question, the one we're on,

- is for the scores above 45, that you say seem to
- be predominant, and for those scores that were
- between 45 -- above 45 but up to 60, not over 60,
- 4 did you look at the particular characteristics of
- 5 those areas to determine whether or not they could
- 6 meet the Clean Water Act goals?
- 7 A. Well, first, I mean, I don't
- 8 think these scores are an indication. They are an
- 9 index. I don't think there's anything magic
- necessarily about 45 or 43 or -- so that's one
- 11 point.
- The second is, I really think
- that the QHEI scores for this system, and
- 14 particularly probably for large rivers in general,
- probably underestimate the available habitat
- that's available to fish in these systems. In
- other words, I think these scores might be lower
- than -- would not represent the variety of
- 19 habitats that might be available to species in the
- system. They underestimate the value of those.
- So I think it's a good index to give us an
- overview of the area. It gives us some numbers to
- compare between areas, but, you know, I --
- Q. I think you told me earlier that you

- have not conducted QHEI surveys?
- A. Yes.
- Q. So what's your basis for this
- 4 opinion that you believe these scores
- 5 underestimate the available habitat?
- A. If one of the areas that they are
- measuring is riffle areas, one of the habitat
- 8 things that's measured -- if you think about it
- 9 this way, in a small stream you might have six or
- seven riffles per mile, let's say, in a stream.
- 11 As a river gets larger, you might be down to two
- riffles per mile. When you get to really large
- rivers, you might be lucky to have one every 10,
- 14 15 miles. Does that mean that that riffle is only
- available to fish within 500 meters of that
- 500-meter section or 10,000-meter section? Most
- large river fish are able to move, if they need
- 18 riffle habitat, and they do move fairly large
- distances, maybe up a tributary stream and maybe
- up a main river to get to a riffle habitat. I was
- just talking to -- I was at a large river meeting
- this week, and I was talking to a large river
- ecologist from Missouri, and he was saying they
- use the outside bends of the Missouri River,

- consider that sort of as a riffle habitat because
- you have more riffle there, but he said it's about
- two miles or two-and-a-half miles between those
- 4 types of habitats.
- 5 So all I'm saying is, the fish
- on large rivers are really adapted to moving over
- 7 a wider range, and I think using a set length,
- which is my understanding, and someone can correct
- 9 me if I misunderstood how the QHEI is calculated,
- but I thought it was calculated over a 500-meter
- stretch, which corresponded to the stretch that
- they were actually collecting the fish from, but
- as you move to large systems, those fish tend to
- move over longer distances to find a preferred
- habitat. We talked earlier about many larger fish
- will move out of the river itself or into flood
- plane pools or mouths of tributaries or back water
- areas to carry out parts of their life cycle, and
- unless you include all of those habitats in your
- index, you are really undervaluing the habitat
- 21 available to them.
- So I'm not sure like in the
- lower Kaskaskia, if you did the QHEI, I'm not sure
- whether you would include the habitat available up

- in the flood plane. My understanding of it was,
- you would just include the habitat within the
- 3 river, and yet you would be excluding habitat
- 4 that's very important to many of those species to
- 5 carry out their life cycle. So all I'm saying is,
- if anything, I think these numbers may be low in
- 7 the kinds of habitats that are available in the
- 8 systems that we're studying.
- 9 Q. I'm not sure I fully understand. So
- 10 let me ask you a few questions.
- 11 Are you saying that because
- large fish are able to move large distances,
- that -- are you referring to fish living outside,
- for example, the upper Dresden Island pool and
- saying that sometimes they will come in for a
- visit, and you know, then move on? I am not
- understanding the significance of your point that
- 18 they --
- A. Let me give you just an example.
- 20 Say we have a collection -- habitat evaluations
- done a mile down the stream of the tail waters of
- the Brandon, the riffle habitat. When we do the
- QHEI, that's going to get a zero for riffle. Yet
- what I'm saying is, for many of the fish that need

- a riffle habitat for some part of their life
- 2 history, that that riffle is still available to
- 3 them. Even small fish like the Black Sided
- 4 Garter, which is one of them I studied in the
- ⁵ Kaskaskia --
- 6 O. Where is the riffle available to
- 7 them?
- A. Below them in the tail water area.
- 9 Q. So you are saying they go up to the
- tail water area to enjoy the riffle?
- 11 A. Well, they may breed there.
- 12 O. Fine.
- A. And then they move back down to the
- pool afterwards. You collect them in the pool,
- you do your habitat evaluation in that pool, which
- doesn't include any -- you have zero for riffle
- habitat, and yet what I'm saying from the fish's
- point of view, that riffle habitat is still
- available, even though it's still a mile away.
- Q. But if you are doing, not just QHEI,
- but you are also doing fish surveys in the pool --
- A. Right.
- Q. -- then don't you have the two
- 24 pieces that you are talking about?

- A. You do. But that's why I'm saying
- if you just -- and that's why they say, the QHEI
- is often used in lieu of the monitoring. If you
- 4 have all the monitoring data, you are documenting
- 5 what the habitat is. You really don't need a
- 6 QHEI. But it becomes important in this case. All
- 7 I'm saying is, yes, we are talking about 45 to
- 8 60 -- I'm just testifying that this is a range
- 9 from what I know of the system in which you have
- good potential of meeting the goals of the Clean
- Water Act. I mean, in terms of habitat.
- 12 Q. Did you study here the fish survey
- data that's available on the upper Dresden Island
- pool in connection with the QHEI scores to draw
- any opinion as to potential to attain the Clean
- Water Act goals?
- 17 A. I think I have gone through all of
- the fish data reports that have been made
- available as part of this record. I've also
- relied somewhat on some other data that the
- Natural History Survey has collected regarding
- 22 fish and the upper Illinois River basin. In terms
- of looking at the QHEI for a station versus the
- fish collected there, and do I think -- I did not

- do -- try to do that kind of analysis. I think it
- would be hard to take an index and the fish that
- are dead and totally match them up.
- 4 Q. Let's go back to my original
- 5 question here because I don't think that you've
- 6 answered it. With respect to the location that's
- 7 had QHEI scores in that 45 to 60 range, did you do
- 8 any review of what the particular characteristics
- ⁹ were in those areas in order to draw a conclusion
- as to whether or not they would support attaining
- the Clean Water Act aquatic life use goals?
- 12 A. Looked at the fish, looked at the
- scores, I looked at what's been documented about
- the habitat. So evaluating all of those things, I
- would say, yes. I mean --
- Q. What were the particular
- characteristics of the areas that scored between
- 18 45 and 60 that you felt enabled them to meet the
- 19 Clean Water Act goals?
- A. Well, I'm not sure I wrote down each
- score to that degree to say these are the aspects,
- 22 and in fact it was a little bothersome --
- Rankin's, when he did his work, it was in March or
- 24 April, I'm sure he didn't detect any emergent

- aquatic weed beds during that time of the year, so
- that wouldn't have been part of his score, yet
- they are there, and I think they provide a
- 4 significant habitat for a lot of fish species. So
- I don't feel I've been justified to rely just on
- 6 that habitat. And I think it was one --
- 7 Q. I'm not -- Dr. Thomas, I'm not
- trying to force you to. You made the statement
- 9 that you agree with the argument that QHEI scores
- between 45 and 60 may be able to meet the Clean
- Water Act goal depending on the particular
- characteristics of the area. You agreed with that
- argument. So my question was, all right, so if
- you do, did you look at the scores here between 45
- and 60 and do some analysis of the particular
- circumstances to try and conclude whether or not
- they in fact can meet the Clean Water Act goals?
- 18 That's all I'm asking. And if you didn't do it,
- 19 that's fine.
- MR. ETTINGER: I think there's some
- ambiguity here in terms of the term the
- area, did he look at a specific area where
- there's a score and measure that against the
- fish. But I believe Dr. Thomas has

- testified in a big river system the area
- might be bigger. The relevant area in terms
- of their life cycle might be different. So
- I think there's a little ambiguity in your
- 5 question and that may be confusing.
- 6 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- 7 Q. Maybe I should ask this --
- 8 A. I did not rely totally on the QHEI
- 9 scores. I relied on the fisheries data as they
- 10 reflect their ability to live and grow in that
- section of the river.
- Q. Okay. Maybe I should have asked
- you, what do you mean by "depending on the
- particular characteristics of the area," what do
- you mean that's an argument that you agree with?
- A. All the areas, all the habitats that
- might be available, logs in the water, sand,
- gravel, shore line, some current, aquatic
- 19 vegetation.
- Q. So did you go back to the QHEI
- reports here and look at the locations that scored
- in 45 to 60 to try and evaluate those particular
- 23 circumstances?
- A. Well, I didn't look at all of them,

- I can tell you that. I looked at the sheets that
- gave all the scores, but I did look at some of
- them, and that's why I gave the example, there's
- one station downstream from the tail water area,
- and that has zero for riffle, riffle habitat, and
- 6 yet my argument is those fish had that riffle
- 7 available to them and would have used it and
- 9 probably do use it if that's needed for carrying
- 9 out a portion of their life cycle. So that's what
- 10 I meant by some of these scores I think
- underestimate the total habitat that's available
- to some of these fish.
- Q. And the scores you were referring to
- those, those included the QHEI scores that were
- produced by Mr. Yoder's company?
- A. Well, I looked at all the ones that
- were available I think.
- 18 Q. Do you know whether or not that work
- was included in what you reviewed? You mentioned
- 20 Rankin?
- A. Right.
- Q. That's different from --
- A. And I saw the Yoder ones.
- Q. Okay, you did. That's what I'm

- talking about.
- 2 A. Okay. But I saw also -- didn't EA
- do a separate analysis themselves? And I looked
- 4 at those also.
- 5 Q. With respect to Mr. Yoder's firm's
- 6 QHEI work, did you look at the corrected QHEI
- 7 scores?
- 8 A. I saw that there were corrections
- 9 made, but I wasn't trying to analyze -- I mean,
- when you have all this detailed information --
- 11 Q. Dr. Thomas, did you look at the
- 12 corrected QHEI scores?
- 13 A. I saw the corrected -- did it mean
- anything to me, no. But I saw the corrected
- scores. I think is does make a difference though
- that I wasn't relying on those to tell me what's
- happening to the fish populations.
- 18 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Excuse me,
- Ms. Franzetti. Just for clarification of
- the record, we keep talking about the EA
- report, and I have assumed and we should
- 22 probably put it on the record, when you talk
- about the EA report that are a part of this
- record, you are talking about materials that

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1		are already in the record or were a part of
2		the pre-filed testimony for Midwest
3		Generation; is that correct?
4		THE WITNESS: I believe so. I'll
5		tell you, I've reviewed so many things.
6		HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: But they
7		are items that are already in the record or
8		will be?
9		THE WITNESS: I hope so.
10		HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: That was
11		your understanding?
12		THE WITNESS: That's my
13		understanding. I think everything you sent
14		me, the Plankton reports, the various
15		Fisheries reports.
16		MS. DEXTER: In terms of QHEI is
17		everything that he's reviewed.
18		HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: I was
19		asking about the EA reports. We keep
20		talking about the EA reports. I just
21	_	assumed when he reviewed the record, that he
22	5	was talking about the reports that are part
23		of the pre-filed testimony or maybe placed
24		in. If that's not the case, then we need

- him to provide us those that are not or
- won't be introduced.
- MR. ETTINGER: May I suggest that
- 4 the three of us should talk. EA has
- 5 actually been doing studies of these systems
- since the '80s and I want to make sure we
- 7 didn't send him one of those earlier
- studies. I don't think we did, but I'd like
- 9 to talk to Ms. Dexter and Dr. Thomas and
- make sure that we didn't give him an earlier
- EA report that wasn't in the record, and we
- will get back to you on that.
- 13 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: And that's
- fine. My only request is, if he did look at
- something that is not part of the record,
- that we make it part of the record.
- MR. ETTINGER: We'll get back to you
- with an answer on that.
- 19 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Okay,
- thank you. Sorry, Ms. Franzetti.
- 21 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- Q. Dr. Thomas, you've mentioned the
- 23 Brandon tail water area and -- are you aware that
- 24 the median OHEI score in the Brandon tail water

- 1 area is about 46?
- A. I thought that was somewhat below
- 3 the actual -- does that include the whole tail
- 4 water?
- o. Yes.
- A. That seems awfully low to me.
- Q. I'm sorry, I think I just misstated
- 8 that. Except for the Brandon tail water area,
- 9 except for the Brandon tail water. I left out a
- 10 key word in formulating that question. Do you
- agree from what the QHEI scores you reviewed that
- the median is about 46?
- MR. ETTINGER: I'm sorry, I'm still
- unclear what we are talking about. The
- upper Dresden Pool, the median score is 46,
- outside of the Brandon tail water?
- MS. FRANZETTI: Correct.
- 18 BY THE WITNESS:
- 19 A. I'm not positive. If I remember,
- that sounds like it may be in the ballpark of what
- someone has reported.
- 22 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- Q. That's fine. I'll ask you to assume
- it. The record will bear out whether or not

- that's an accurate median value. And do I
- understand your testimony correctly that even
- 3 though that median value is at that very low end
- of the 45 to 60 range, that you still believe it's
- reasonable to conclude that the upper Dresden
- 6 Island pool can attain the Clean Water Act aquatic
- 7 life goals?
- A. I wasn't sure when I was going to
- 9 get into this, but I guess I might as well jump in
- now.
- It's interesting when you
- 12 look -- and this is -- if you'll excuse me a
- minute. I'm going to jump off to something else.
- 14 But I'm going to get back to your question -- if
- you look at IBI scores and you look at the Fox
- River, and that's been in the record. The IBI
- scores for the flowing part of the Fox River, and
- the IBI scores for the impounded parts, you see
- that the IBI score for the impounded parts on the
- Fox River is about the same as the Dresden Pool.
- Maybe even a little bit lower. I think the values
- have been reported. The problem here is -- and
- there's no doubt, and there's been testimony, the
- effects of impoundment of the effects of diversity

- in the system. And that's true. I'm not going to
- try to argue against that. The issue is, almost
- every one of our large rivers are impounded to
- 4 some degree over some portion of their length. I
- 5 don't think as a nation we are going to start
- 6 going back and say, well, because they don't have
- 7 the same mix of species, the same, what we call,
- 8 balance indigenous population of a flowing river,
- 9 that we are going to downgrade the water quality
- criteria for all of our reservoir areas and
- impounded areas and all our large rivers. It's
- just not going to happen. So, yes, it is a little
- bit lower than you would find in a free-flowing
- river, but it isn't that far out from many other
- impounded areas of river. Almost all of which
- that I'm thinking of are general use waters. And
- so how the Board is going to treat that, I have no
- idea because it's a broader issue than just this
- system, but I find the populations and the mix of
- species in this system, what one might expect,
- it's probably even better than some other
- impounded areas in other general use waters.
- Q. Have you done any sort of
- comparative analysis to support that statement?

- 1 A. I have collection data from --
- electro fishing data from the Illinois Natural
- History Survey for both Starved Rock, Marseilles
- 4 pool, downstream and general use water, and this
- 5 Dresden Island pool. You can see some difference
- in species, but if you look at those lists, you
- 7 are going to see it's pretty well the mix of
- 8 species that you have there. Some species are
- 9 higher in the Dresden Island pool because, I
- think, of the weed beds and other features of the
- pool. Some species like the Red Horses might be
- lower.
- Q. And, Dr. Thomas, none of that have
- been included in your pre-filed testimony,
- 15 correct?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- Q. Do you agree that, except for the
- 18 Brandon tail waters, fast water is absent in the
- upper Dresden Pool?
- 20 A. What do you mean by fast water?
- Q. Well, you want me to give -- do I
- have to give you a velocity range? I'm talking
- 23 about current.
- A. Right, I understand that.

- MR. ETTINGER: Are you including
- treatment areas?
- MS. FRANZETTI: To the extent they
- are a part of what this proceeding has
- defined as the upper Dresden Island pool,
- 6 yes.
- 7 BY THE WITNESS:
- 8 A. I would say that it would be
- 9 characterized as slower moving water for most of
- the rest of the pool. I think there's somewhere
- in the record what sort of an average velocity is
- through the pool, but I'm not positive I remember
- 13 that.
- 14 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- Q. You do agree that, except for the
- tail waters, riffles are absent from the upper
- 17 Dresden Island pool?
- 18 A. I'm not positive that other riffles
- aren't available in some of the tributaries, but
- yes, for the pool itself, I would agree.
- Q. What tributaries to the upper
- Dresden Pool are you talking about?
- A. Let me see. Jackson Creek actually
- comes in the downstream of I-55, correct?

- 1 Q. Yes.
- 2 A. So I am not sure.
- Q. You are not sure if there are any
- 4 tributaries you are talking about?
- 5 A. Yes, I am not sure if there's any of
- 6 that kind of habitat available.
- 7 Q. Do you agree that hard substrates,
- 8 and in particular I mean gravel and cobble -- that
- 9 let me restate that.
- Do you agree that hard
- substrates, and in particular gravel and cobble,
- hard substrates, in fast water, are lacking in the
- upper Dresden Island pool, except in the Brandon
- 14 tail waters?
- 15 A. I wouldn't agree totally with that.
- 16 I think from the descriptions I read there are
- sand bottom areas that were formed that's
- considered a harder substrate. It depends on how
- they are washed and that. There are also logs and
- debris at times that will form a harder substrate
- that could be used by some fish. But in general,
- I would agree with that description with those
- exceptions.
- Q. Is it true that certain species or

- 1 groups of fish species such as most darters and
- 2 Red Horse, as well as some minnows, require the
- habitats that we have just been discussing to
- 4 reproduce and feed successfully?
- 5 A. Not all of them, but most of them do
- need that. The logperch, no. It does have
- 7 populations in lakes and will use a sandy
- 8 shoreline or sandy gravel, but, yes, in general
- they need some flow over usually a harder
- substrate. There are some other exceptions. The
- mud garter and some others that will actually
- spawn in back water pools for this vegetation. So
- just for the record I should state that there are
- some species that are adapted to sluggish water,
- of those groups, but in general I would say the
- large majority of them do need a habitat as you've
- described.
- Q. You mentioned earlier, and now I'm
- 19 going to refer to question 11, where it
- specifically addresses these micro habitats. What
- 21 are micro habitats as you've used that term in
- your testimony?
- A. I use it -- and I'm not sure it's
- necessarily in the literature. I use it as just a

- 1 very small portion of habitat. When we talk about
- 2 riffle areas, we talk about the whole riffle. But
- within that riffle, there are a whole series of
- 4 micro habitats. There might be an area of real,
- shallow, fine gravel, and there might be another
- area of larger rocks and cobble. And one example
- might be a log. A hollow log might be used by a
- 8 flat head cat fish for spawning. That would be a
- 9 micro habitat that it's using. It's just a very
- small portion of all the habitat available there.
- The QHEI as an index wouldn't
- 12 pick up necessarily these micro habitats that
- might be available. It's giving you a general
- snapshot of the whole area, but when you are
- looking at it by a species by species basis and
- what each of their requirements might be, then you
- might be more concerned about some of these what
- 18 I'm calling micro habitats, small areas of habitat
- that might be more suitable for them for spawning
- or some other aspect of their life history.
- Q. Dr. Thomas, the next part of the
- question is, would you describe the location and
- extent of the micro habitats that exist in the --
- 24 and let's take it one area at a time first --

- describe the location and the extent of the
- 2 micro habitats that exist in the upper Dresden
- Pool.
- 4 A. Well, I think I referenced, we just
- 5 talked about the tail water, for instance, that
- 6 even casual observation from the bridge reveals
- 7 the variety of smaller habitats that are
- 8 available. Some faster moving water. Some slower
- 9 pools. Some emergent vegetation. So if you get
- downstream, the micro habitats are probably
- provided by the aquatic vegetation, by logs in the
- water, by overhanging branches. There's areas
- along the shore where there might be riffraff or
- gravel. So all of those things could provide
- habitat for some species of fish.
- Q. Okay. Am I correct that your
- knowledge of the location and extent of micro
- habitats in the upper Dresden Island pool is based
- on your trip out there last year?
- A. Well, not totally. I have
- descriptions in some of the reports and that I've
- read. There's photographs that the EA provided of
- lots of the area throughout that pool.
- Q. So some of these areas are described

- in the QHEI survey reports?
- A. Well, there, or the fisheries'
- reports or photographs that show logs and
- overhanging branches. So anyway, there's a
- 5 variety of places where someone has described or
- 6 pictured habitats.
- 7 Q. Is it your opinion that these micro
- 8 habitats are what enable the upper Dresden Island
- 9 pool to attain the Clean Water Act aquatic life
- use goals?
- 11 A. I'm not sure it attained, as it was
- capable of attaining. I think that's an important
- aspect of it all. It's an important habitat. But
- it, in and of itself, is not the only habitat
- ¹⁵ available.
- Q. I understand that. I'm trying to
- understand how you're using the existence of these
- micro habitats, what their significance is. And
- so are you saying that their presence makes the
- upper Dresden Island pool capable of attaining the
- 21 Clean Water Act aquatic life use goals?
- 22 A. Yeah, I think there's enough variety
- of habitat in that pool compared to other pool
- 24 areas of other river systems that it should be

- capable of maintaining something close to the
- ² Clean Water Act goal of a balanced indigenous
- 3 population.
- Q. I haven't asked you, have you made
- these determinations before as to whether or not a
- 6 particular body of water can attain the Clean
- Water Act aquatic life use goals or is this the
- 8 first time you are opining on that topic?
- 9 A. Well, I find the whole concept of --
- 10 I tend to approach it from a species point of
- 11 view.
- Q. Dr. Thomas, the question is whether
- 13 or not --
- 14 A. I'm getting there. I tend to
- approach it from the species point of view. So a
- broad, general term like that used in our legal
- system doesn't have huge overriding meaning to me.
- I mean, I'm not sure anybody could totally tell me
- in any of these water bodies what the balanced
- indigenous population should look like, for one
- thing. And I have seen the historical data so I
- could probably tell you better than most what it
- was, but it's never going to be what it is now and
- what it's going to be. What's the imbalance

- indigenous population for Lake Michigan? We get a
- new invasive species that takes off every year.
- 3 So populations are changing there every year, the
- 4 mix, the balance of them. So I'm not sure anybody
- 5 really could tell you very actively what a
- 6 balanced indigenous population should look like
- 7 there. What I'm saying is, for this system I
- 8 think we have a basic assemblage of species that
- 9 in my view would be close to probably what we
- 10 could expect in that system.
- 11 Q. Moving on to the Chicago Sanitary &
- 12 Ship Canal. Can you describe for me the location
- and extent of the micro habitats that exist in
- this Sanitary and Ship canal?
- A. Well, of course, it's a very diverse
- system with, you know, lots of difference between
- the north channel --
- 18 Q. No, no, no, the Chicago Sanitary &
- 19 Ship Canal only.
- A. Sorry, okay. Habitats in general
- are more limited there, but on the other hand
- 22 there is --
- Q. No, Dr. Thomas, where are the micro
- habitats in the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal?

- A. The broken riffraff.
- O. And where is it?
- A. Along the shore.
- Q. Of the --
- 5 MR. ETTINGER: Do you want a meets
- and bounds description? Should we get a map
- out? I'm not sure what your question is.
- 8 MS. FRANZETTI: Well, Albert, I'm
- 9 asking what is the basis for his statement
- that there are micro habitats in the Chicago
- 11 Sanitary & Ship Canal?
- MR. ETTINGER: Why don't you ask
- that question, and he can answer that.
- 14 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- 15 Q. I would like to know the extent of
- them and their location in the ship canal,
- otherwise these are just generalized statements
- that really can't be evaluated. Number one, we
- are using a term that he's admitted isn't even
- used in the literature. It's his own term. So I
- think I'm entitled to know what you are saying is
- the extent of their location in the Chicago
- 23 Sanitary & Ship Canal and where are they located.
- So I don't need meets and bounds, but I need a

- little more specifics than there's micro habitats
- ² out there.
- A. Emergent vegetation. There's areas
- 4 of gravel and rock along portions of the
- 5 shoreline. There's some logs. There's other
- 6 debris in the water. There's sunken barges. Any
- 5 structure like that in the water is going to serve
- 8 as a micro habitat. This is why people sink
- 9 ships in lakes or the ocean or sink Christmas
- trees in our lakes because they provide a habitat
- from macro invertebrates to grow on and for fish
- to use as a habitat. So that's what I mean by
- that. Could be overhanging branches. Large
- rubble, rocks in the water.
- Q. What's the extent of the Chicago
- 16 Ship Canal? Do you think they are prevalent
- throughout the length of the ship canal? Do you
- think there are certain parts of it? Can you be
- any more specific?
- MR. ETTINGER: We were in the ship
- canal last month. What did you see there in
- terms of habitats that you know of?
- 23 BY THE WITNESS:
- A. I mean, you go through areas that

- 1 have relatively limited habitat. There's straight
- walls and probably somewhat uniform bottom,
- although I didn't measure it. You have other
- 4 areas in which there appears to be a more
- 5 developed shore line and it provides more habitat.
- I haven't gone through and analyzed that there's
- five percent gravel shoreline, and one percent
- 8 emergent vegetation, but there are all those
- 9 micro habitats or small areas of habitat available
- to a variety of fish that live in those areas.
- 11 That's all I'm saying.
- 12 Q. Moving on to question 12. Give me
- just a moment to read it to myself. It may be
- that we've covered parts of this. Question 12,
- "Your pre-filed testimony refers to 'habitat
- improvement' in the upper and lower Dresden pool
- that could result in improvement of fish
- 18 communities, and also that physical habitat can be
- improved 'by providing physical structures for the
- growth of microbial organisms and macro
- invertebrates that can provide food to fish.'
- Please explain in greater detail the nature and
- extent of improvements to habitat and their
- location in the upper Dresden pool that you were

- referring to in this testimony." And I will just
- add, I know you talked about the potential
- 3 construction of a dike. We already have that.
- 4 But I don't know that you have identified any
- other improvements you think, habitat
- improvements, that could be made in the upper
- 7 Dresden pool that we haven't already discussed.
- 8 So I'm not asking you to repeat your testimony,
- 9 but to make sure I know all of what you are
- 10 referring to.
- MR. ETTINGER: I'm sorry, you just
- shifted back to the upper Dresden Pool. You
- want to answer this for the upper Dresden
- Pool or are we at the Sanitary Ship Canal?
- MS. FRANZETTI: The question is the
- Dresden Pool, and I believe his prior
- testimony regarding construction of the dike
- was also the Dresden Pool.
- MR. ETTINGER: I was confused.
- MS. FRANZETTI: So, yes, we are
- staying in the Dresden Pool.
- MR. ETTINGER: I was confused
- because your last set of questions was about
- the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal.

- 1 BY THE WITNESS:
- A. Well, there's always lots of things
- you can do to improve fish habitat. Again, I
- 4 think it takes an analysis of those habitat types
- 5 that might be limited for species of interest.
- One of the things we recommend, like in Lake
- 7 Peoria, where the Corps is dredging, is the
- 8 creation of some islands with some deeper water
- 9 around them for over-wintering habitat. Because
- deeper over-wintering habitat is an issue in that
- part of the Illinois River. It may or may not be
- an issue for the Dresden Pool. So depending upon
- some of the species you were interested in and
- what you were interested in enhancing, might
- effect the types of things that you might want to
- do in that pool. All I'm saying is there's a
- number of possibilities of things to do to improve
- 18 fish habitat. But, again, it's got to be targeted
- 19 at what species you are interested in and what you
- would like to see improved.
- Q. And you have not done the analysis
- you are talking about, the species type you want
- to improve and what they would need and whether
- you could do that in the upper Dresden Pool? You

- haven't done that type of analysis?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. Moving on to Question 13, do you
- 4 believe the absence of sufficient food for fish is
- 5 currently a limiting factor to species abundance
- and diversity in the upper Dresden Pool?
- 7 A. Well, I have not seen any data that
- 8 would indicate that food is a limiting factor,
- 9 with a possible exception of small mouth bass.
- 10 The EA study showed plankton in the upper Dresden
- 11 Pool to be similar to other large water bodies. I
- think Burton and Siegert testified the condition
- of fish in the upper Dresden Pool is similar to
- other water bodies. But their reports did say
- that small mouth bass had lower condition.
- Whether that's temperature effect or a food effect
- or some other thing, I don't really know. But the
- data I've seen does not seem to indicate that food
- is limiting for most of the fish in the system.
- MS. FRANZETTI: And, again, the data
- that you are referring to, is that
- something, Counsel that maybe we can get
- some clarification on after you've had a
- chance to talk to him?

- MS. DEXTER: I think we need to go
- back and look through the reports and
- identify which ones he's talking about.
- 4 BY THE WITNESS:
- 5 A. I apologize if some of them weren't
- 6 in the records. My understanding was it was part
- ⁷ of the record.
- 8 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- 9 Q. It may well be, Dr. Thomas. You
- don't have to apologize for anything at this
- point. We just need to get a little clarity when
- you say the data you've seen. You can appreciate
- 13 that.
- 14 A. I'm sorry that I didn't get more
- specific.
- Q. Right, and it makes it difficult, if
- not impossible, for me to ask follow-up questions
- 18 about that data.
- MS. FRANZETTI: And on that note,
- Madam Hearing Officer, I'm just going to
- reserve the right to ask further questions
- of Dr. Thomas when we do have a little more
- clarity and certainty to the data that he's
- referring to for some of these statements.

- 1 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- Q. Question 14. "Your pre-filed
- testimony states that many structures will also
- provide shelter and potential breeding habitat for
- 5 fish. What fish species are you referring to, and
- of those species, will the suitability of the
- 7 habitat still be effected at all by the presence
- 8 of sediments"?
- 9 A. Well, in those areas of heavy
- sedimentation, I mean, that's a problem for almost
- all Illinois waterways. So that would be a
- problem, if you put a structure in an area where
- you have heavy deposition. So if you were going
- to put sand and gravel in, for instance, or if you
- are going to put in riffraff or something in, you
- would put it in areas that tend not to be
- depositional areas. In other words, areas where
- 18 you have a significant build-up of sediment, and
- those are usually very quiet areas, back water
- areas where the sediment can drop out and
- 21 accumulate.
- Q. What fish were you referring to?
- A. I think if, you know, if it was
- determined that someone wanted to create more

- 1 habitat for small mouth bass, for instance, you
- 2 might look and see if there were areas where there
- was some current. You haven't had enough depth
- 4 and you thought adding gravel or sand and gravel
- 5 mix or something might provide some habitat for
- 6 them to build a nest in. That could be just one
- 7 example.
- Q. So with respect to upper Dresden
- 9 Island pool, you have not done an evaluation as to
- what additional shelter and/or breeding habitat
- 11 for whatever species of fish you think are or
- should be there, you have not done that type of
- 13 evaluation?
- 14 A. No. Other than saying that there's
- pretty good sun fish population, pretty good large
- mouth bass, I have to presume that there's habitat
- for nest builders to successfully build nests and
- have young and reproduce in the system already.
- Q. Moving on to question 15. "Would
- you please identify the facts that support your
- belief that the upper Dresden Pool can 'support a
- more balanced and diverse fish population'"?
- A. Yes. And probably by that I meant a
- greater number -- greater numbers, and

- 1 particularly some of the more sensitive species.
- I mean, we already have a pretty large mix of
- 3 species, but we could see potential improvements
- 4 in this habitat for Walleye and small mouth bass
- 5 and channel cat fish, potentially some of the red
- 6 horses. So those would be species that we might
- 5 see greater numbers of with potentially improved
- 8 water quality in that pool.
- 9 Q. What facts are you relying on for
- those opinions?
- 11 A. What's supported in other areas.
- 12 Q. Of the state? You mean other
- 13 rivers?
- A. Yes, even in, say, the lower
- Des Plaines River, for instance, or downstream
- pools.
- Q. Downstream of the I-55?
- 18 A. In the Illinois River, for instance.
- Q. Any other facts that you are relying
- on to support that opinion we haven't covered?
- 21 A. Well, I think the other is just the
- history of the area. If you look, I mean, the
- late 1960's, early 70's, we had basically carp and
- goldfish with cancers on them, and today we have a

- 1 much more diverse population. As water quality
- has improved over the last 20 or more years, we've
- seen sort of steady improvements in the fish
- 4 community. Now, I realize that the data shown
- over the last 15 years, you have some years that
- are better than others in terms of the fish
- 7 population that's in the system, but the evidence
- seems to indicate that as we've done things to
- 9 improve the water quality that the fish
- populations have responded in a positive way to
- that. So I don't have any reason to believe that
- we couldn't continue to see some improvements
- beyond where we are now in that system.
- Q. And that's based on the fact because
- there were improvements from the 60's and 70's to
- 16 today?
- A. Well, and even more recently, and I
- 18 know I'm not testifying right now on the CAWS, the
- 19 Chicago area waterways, but I think even with the
- TARP system, that portion that's gone into effect,
- there was some fisheries that indicated some
- improvement even after that. So I think we've
- been doing things that have resulted in a positive
- response from the fish community in the system.

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1 Q. And what more are you saying can be
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- done in the upper Dresden Pool that you believe
- will result in a more balanced and diverse fish
- 4 population?
- A. Well, there's been a number of
- potential stresses on the system that have been
- 7 identified, and I think as we continue to move to
- 8 reduce some of those, and I think temperature is
- one of those, I think dissolved oxygen at times
- may be a problem, contaminated sediments may be a
- problem for some species in some places. Barge
- traffic may be a problem. We're not going to
- correct that. Or at least it's unlikely. So I
- think we have a number of stresses, but I think as
- some of those can be reduced, I think we can
- expect that we'll see response from the aquatic
- 17 community.
- 18 Q. Now, is that based on any studies,
- any analysis, any evaluations that you've done?
- A. As I said, you can base it just on
- what's happened in this whole upper Illinois River
- 22 system as water quality has improved since the
- early 1970's or other systems. We ran into -- one
- of the other areas that I worked on in New Jersey

- was the lower Raritan River and Raritan Bay area,
- and that actually was a coal fire plant we were
- working on, and they never had any problem with
- 4 impingement there or entrainment until somewhere
- 5 in the mid-'70's as water quality started cleaning
- 6 up, all of a sudden fish populations moved in and
- 7 they started having plants grow and all of a
- 8 sudden they were having entrainment impacts on
- 9 things that weren't in that system before. So I
- think there's a lot of data out there on how fast
- the aquatic community can respond if you have
- improvements in water quality.
- Q. Speaking of temperature, question
- 14 16, what are the temperatures in the upper Dresden
- Pool you are referring to as necessary to improve
- species abundance and diversity?
- A. Well, I was referring to probably
- the IEPA recommended thermal maximum. Probably
- very generally temperatures above 90 degrees
- Farenheit in the system. I think as some of those
- temperatures were reduced, we might expect less
- 22 avoidance and possibly better fish growth. I
- think that's -- and possibly the better habitat
- for fish like red horses and maybe white sucker

- who might be a little more sensitive to warmer
- 2 temperatures.
- Q. And those are the improvements that
- 4 you believe would occur if the IEPA proposed
- 5 thermal standards were adopted?
- A. I think they would move us farther
- 7 in that direction of raising those periods, even
- 8 though they may be brief, of higher water
- 9 temperatures.
- Q. All right. So they might move us in
- the direction of better fish growth, less
- avoidance; is that what you mean?
- A. Yes.
- Q. But you are not sure how far they
- might move us?
- A. Give you a quantitative -- no.
- Q. Moving to 17, and you mentioned at
- least one of these fish in that answer, you
- testified that white sucker and logperch are
- temperature sensitive species. "See Section 2,
- fourth page, last paragraph, and the fifth page,
- first paragraph of your testimony." What
- information did you rely upon to determine that
- these species are temperature sensitive?

- 1 A. Well, I -- for the white sucker, I
- 2 relied on -- Yoder had an upper avoidance
- temperature of about 84 degrees Farenheit and an
- 4 upper incipient lethal temperature of about --
- 5 rounding it off to about 89 degrees Farenheit.
- 6 There was -- I had some data from Fish and Wild
- 7 Life Service that had a little bit higher upper
- 8 incipient lethal temperature for white sucker up
- 9 at 91.4 degrees Farenheit. So those are two
- sources. They are off by a few degrees, but you
- get that kind of variation in the literature.
- The logperch, I had an upper
- incipient temperature of 26 degrees centigrade.
- 14 I'm not sure the table I got is in the record or
- 15 not.
- Q. Do you remember what table you got
- 17 it from?
- A. Well, I have the table.
- 19 Q. That's a good start. Pull that baby
- 20 out.
- A. You'll have to give me a minute
- here. I am not sure if it's in the folder or not.
- Q. You know what, what we can do is, I
- think at a certain point here that I won't be done

- that we're going to take a lunch break, do you
- want to look for that over the lunch breach?
- A. Yes, let me try to dig that out,
- because -- actually, it's interesting, it's a
- 5 species that I worked on for my master's, and I
- know where it's found, but I only had that one
- 7 reference that gave upper incipient lethal
- 8 temperature.
- 9 Q. Now, let me go back to the white
- sucker, just to be clear on the record what you
- did rely on. I appreciate you giving me the
- temperatures for the white sucker that is your
- basis for saying they are a temperature sensitive
- species. But let's be clear about where you got
- the data. You were relying on Mr. Yoder's data
- that he presented in this proceeding with respect
- to white sucker?
- 18 A. Yes, that was one of them.
- Q. One of them, right. And then you
- mentioned some fish and wild life temperature
- ²¹ data, correct?
- A. Let me check something because it
- may have been out of the "Temperature Criteria for
- Fresh Water Fish" by Brungs and Jones. I'd have

- to look through there to see if -- because they
- 2 have a number of species listed.
- Q. Dr. Thomas, you want to just maybe
- include that in the homework I'm giving you for
- 5 the lunch hour?
- 6 MR. ETTINGER: Is Brungs and Jones
- 7 in the record?
- 8 MS. FRANZETTI: It's been mentioned.
- 9 I'm not positive if it is or not. It's
- definitely been mentioned. I'm not sure --
- 11 BY THE WITNESS:
- 12 A. I don't think that's where I -- I
- don't think that's where I got it. I think it was
- more recent data. I was just looking quickly. I
- 15 know there's a table.
- 16 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Jess
- indicates that's she's checked and it's not
- in the record.
- MS. DEXTER: If it becomes time, we
- can put it in the record.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Well, he just said,
- at least on this one -- it may change on
- logperch -- he didn't rely on that.
- A. Yes, I was supposed to look at white

- 1 perch. I was looking at logperch. Yes, white
- sucker is in there -- no, well --
- Q. What's the temperature in there?
- 4 A. Well, they just list here the
- maximum weekly average temperature for growth, and
- 6 they listed that at 82 degrees in Farenheit.
- 7 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: At this
- point we need to put that in the record.
- 9 We're reading from it, we need to put it in
- the record.
- MR. ETTINGER: You can put it in the
- record, but I need it back.
- MS. FRANZETTI: At least Jessica
- comes prepared unlike some other people we
- won't name.
- MR. ETTINGER: She's eager to get
- rid of these.
- 18 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: I've been
- handed Temperature Criteria for Fresh Water
- Fish Protocol & Procedures, U.S. EPA,
- 21 Environmental Research Laboratory Office of
- Research & Development. And it's got a May
- 1977 date on it. If there's no objection,
- we will enter that as Exhibit 328. Seeing

1 none, it's Exhibit 328. (Whereupon Exhibit No. 328 was entered into the record.) 4 MS. WILLIAMS: I'd like to clarify 5 for the record. I don't want to object. I believe Jessica is correct, that this is not an exhibit, but I believe the Agency submitted it. MS. DEXTER: I believe I checked 9 10 through. MS. DIERS: Mr. Yoder did follow 11 up, and it was attached. 12 13 MS. DEXTER: In the big one, yes. 14 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, when we had to 15 do supplemental to what people requested, 16 I'm pretty sure it was in there. 17 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: That's 18 fine, but since we are dealing with it at 19 the hearing, we'll go ahead and mark it 20 again. 21 THE WITNESS: I should just add on 22 to that, on page 51, Appendix B, they 23 actually have it listed by its scientific 24 name, which is Catostomidae, and they do

- list some various lethal thresholds. That's
- 2 probably somewhat different than upper
- incipient lethal temperature. Anyway, they
- 4 have some different values in there. They
- 5 are all in centigrade. So there is some
- additional data in there, but I didn't see
- any for the logperch.
- 8 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- 9 Q. Dr. Thomas, recognizing you don't
- have specifically what the thermal data was you
- were relying on, let me ask you more generally,
- with respect to demoting white sucker and logperch
- as temperature sensitive species, were you
- primarily focusing on upper incident lethal
- 15 temperatures, UILT?
- A. No, where available I'd look at
- avoidance temperature. I mean, if you have
- temperature for growth, that's very important too.
- 19 A lot of the literature doesn't have that for a
- lot of those species so --
- Q. Okay. So you looked at, I guess,
- then any thermal data for these two fish species
- that you had in coming to the conclusion that they
- 24 are temperature sensitive species, correct?

- A. Well, I looked at the RIS list, the
- 2 representative important species list that's been
- present, and then as I looked at the temperatures
- for those, I looked at what are the species on the
- 5 lower end of that range. We're saying temperature
- 6 sensitive. Maybe that's not the best term. They
- 7 are the most sensitive or they have the lowest
- 8 lethal temperatures or maybe on the lower end of
- ⁹ the avoidance temperatures of the RIS group. I
- think that's a more accurate or better way of
- 11 characterizing it.
- 12 Q. Thank you. We'll leave it at that,
- and when you can more specifically identify the
- 14 data --
- A. I got it off a table, and I'll try
- to identify what the source of that was.
- Q. Great. Moving on to question 18,
- will a reduction of temperatures in the upper
- 19 Dresden Pool without improvements in dissolved
- oxygen levels achieve a diverse fish population?
- A. That's sort of a funny question in a
- way. I mean, I guess achieve a diverse fish
- population indicates there is a not diverse fish
- population there now. A better question might be,

- would it improve to some degree the fish
- population or some aspects of the fish population.
- I think the two have to go together, the
- 4 temperature and the dissolved oxygen, which in
- 5 some ways they often do. I think from my reading
- of some of the Midwest Generation reports, DO has
- 7 not been reported as a widespread problem, but
- 8 there has been indication that it may be a problem
- 9 at some times or some places within the pool.
- Q. Do you have any -- do you have any
- opinion as to whether you think temperature is a
- more significant stressor in the upper Dresden
- Pool as compared to dissolved oxygen?
- A. From the data I've seen, I would say
- that temperature is probably more significant than
- dissolved oxygen.
- Q. Why is that? What's the basis of
- 18 that?
- A. Well, the basis of that, I guess, is
- that temperatures at time go above the avoidance
- temperature or approach lethal temperatures for
- some species at times where I haven't seen data on
- the dissolved oxygen in that pool that would
- indicate that it's reaching a lethal level for

- some fish. Now, I'll be the first to admit that I
- haven't reviewed probably every DO record that's
- been collected out there. So I'm just saying from
- 4 what I've seen in the record, that would be my
- 5 opinion at this point. I do -- I can say in
- 6 answer to that question that I did look at the
- y upper avoidance temperature for like red horse and
- white sucker, and that seems to be in the 28 to 29
- 9 degrees centigrade range, and I'm sorry, I don't
- have the quick Farenheit translation of that, but
- it's in the 80's somewhere.
- 12 Q. Let's move on to question 19. What
- are the temperatures that you are referring to in
- your statement that the temperatures in the upper
- Dresden Pool at times in the summer months are
- sufficient for causing avoidance and limit the
- carrying capacity of the system? So first start
- with the temperatures that you are referring to.
- A. Again, temperatures higher than the
- 20 avoidance temperatures of some of these fish would
- indicate that the fish are going to move out of
- those systems.
- Q. And can you generally reference what
- you are using as the avoidance temperature?

- A. As I said for red horse and white
- suckers it's in the 28 to 29 degree centigrade.
- 3 That's what's in the record. But I also based it
- 4 the UAA report that temperatures at times were
- 5 near or above the upper avoidance temperature of
- some species and also the ecological analysts --
- 7 this time I did write it down, the 2003 report
- 8 regarding thermal standards on page 35 said that
- 9 resident fish can and do move temporarily out of
- thermally enhanced areas and into portions of the
- 11 river that are more suited to their preferred
- temperature range. So, again, I was using some of
- the EA reports, as well as the UAA, as well as
- some of the data that I saw on avoidance
- 15 temperatures.
- Now, I'll tell you the one thing
- that I found totally missing in terms of doing a
- good analysis, if you will, or just overview of
- the effects of temperature, I have not seen
- thermal plumb data from the discharge down to the
- I-55 bridge that shows the extent of the plumb,
- the top to the bottom temperatures. I did see one
- place, I can't remember where it was now, that
- said thermal mixing of the plumb with the river

- 1 probably occurred somewhere between two and
- four miles downstream. But I don't know -- I
- mean, if I was one that was going to do a real
- evaluation of that, I would -- and I think that
- 5 thermal plumb data was referenced somewhere in
- someone's testimony that the plumb study was
- 7 done -- I just had not seen the results of that
- 8 plumb data. That would sort of be helpful, I
- 9 think.
- 10 Q. How would you use that data? Why
- would it be helpful?
- 12 A. I mean, there's statements in here,
- like there's room for fish to move under the plumb
- or away from it, which I assume is correct, but I
- haven't seen the data that really shows me. For
- instance, suckers are going to be near the bottom
- and the red horses. So what is the temperature
- along the bottom, and when it fully mixes what are
- the temperatures really there. I don't really
- 20 know. And without seeing that -- I mean, I think
- I have seen some things from the I-55 bridge that
- seems like it can be like up to 70 degrees
- Farenheit, above ambient temperature, but, again,
- without seeing good plumb data and how that plumb

- operates and what the top to bottom and what the
- one side to the other are, it's a little hard to
- evaluate, what's available for fish for avoidance
- 4 or attraction or whatever so.
- ⁵ Q. What do you mean by the carrying
- capacity of the system? I'm still on question 19.
- 7 A. Carrying capacity is just a term,
- 8 fisheries' term used to indicate, if you will, the
- 9 poundage of different fish that a system might
- support. It's based on habitat and competition
- and food availability and a variety of other
- things. You might hear the term, you know, this
- area will support, I don't know, X-number of large
- mouth bass or so many pounds of fish or whatever,
- 15 so --
- Q. So in that part of your statement,
- are you basically saying that it's your opinion
- that there would be more fish there?
- 19 A. I think certain species, we might
- expect an increase of if temperatures were lower.
- O. Which ones?
- A. The red horses, the white sucker
- might be one. Walleye could be one. Small mouth
- bass could be included in that. Those would be a

- 1 few of the species right offhand that I can think
- 2 of.
- Q. Moving on to question 20. In your
- 4 testimony you note that you, "Have not seen data
- that demonstrates that sediment toxicity is a
- 6 major factor limiting the aquatic life potential
- of this system." Did you consider in your review
- 8 of QHEI scores to what extent sediments were
- 9 present in those areas that scored greater than 45
- and to what extent the presence of those
- sediments, separate and apart from the issue of
- their toxicity, would impair the quality of that
- 13 location for aquatic habitat?
- A. Well, sedimentation is a problem
- throughout our state, actually throughout the
- Midwest, and there's no doubt that just heavy
- sedimentation in and of itself has been for a long
- time and continues to be a problem. I think
- actually from my view of, like the pool and the
- data I've seen, probably the turbidity, the amount
- of sediment in the water is probably a little bit
- lower in the upper Des Plaines pool and probably
- lower than it is lower down in the river or in
- some other rivers like the Kaskaskia or some of

- others now. So, yes, sedimentation is a problem.
- 2 It does preclude some habitats for fish that might
- otherwise be used if we didn't have as heavy of a
- sedimentation problem, but I'm not sure the upper
- 5 Dresden Pool in some ways probably has lower just
- 6 silt problem or sedimentation problems than some
- of our other rivers in the state.
- Q. You don't know whether or not it's
- 9 any worse or any better than any other rivers in
- the state; is that what you are telling me?
- 11 A. I think it's better.
- 12 Q. What's that based on? Have you done
- some comparison?
- A. Well, one is aquatic vegetation
- beds. Most aquatic vegetation in the Illinois has
- been eliminating, other than, if we get a few
- years of lower water, some of those vegetation
- beds will start coming in in some of the back
- waters in the lower Illinois River. But generally
- that vegetation has been pretty well limiting. A
- lot of that is heavy turbidity. If the water
- stays turbid because of fine sediment in the water
- and you can't get enough light in, vegetation
- doesn't take hold.

- Q. And that's based on last year's trip
- 2 to those four or five locations?
- A. No, that's based on just long-term
- 4 data collection on the Illinois River.
- 5 Q. No, no, I'm asking you about the
- 6 upper Dresden Pool.
- 7 A. Well, I know from the reports that
- we referenced earlier from the 80's and early
- 9 '90's that there were pretty good aquatic
- vegetation beds then, and from my observations
- last year, I know they are still there, and some
- of the other reports I've seen, there's also been
- reference to the aquatic vegetation beds.
- 14 Q. Did you take any time to study the
- sediment report that was filed in this action
- prepared by EA? It was an attachment to
- Dr. Burton's pre-filed testimony.
- 18 A. Yes, I did look at that.
- 19 Q. And did you in that regard study
- what the sediment sampling that was done last year
- showed with respect to the presence and extent of
- sediments in the upper Dresden Island pool?
- A. It was done last year?
- Q. Was that a particular exhibit?

- 1 A. It was part of that sediment report
- by EA that was attached to Dr. Burton's testimony.
- Yes, I think I did see that. That was part of --
- Q. You may have seen it. I'm trying to
- 5 understand whether you considered the data that
- was collected by EA last year from the upper
- 7 Dresden Pool in making these statements that you
- 8 think there is less degree of sediments in the
- ⁹ upper Dresden Island Pool than in other waters of
- the state?
- 11 A. In some other waters. I'm not going
- to say that it's -- I said in some other waters.
- But some of it is by observation. You can tell
- 14 highly turbid waters when you see them, and most
- of them don't have aquatic weed beds in them. Or
- they have at times when water has been clearer,
- but most of the time they are gone, and that's
- true for most of the Illinois River.
- 19 Kaskaskia was all always sort
- of -- it never did have a really well established
- submersed aquatic leaves. They did have emergent
- ones -- so, yes, I know that sedimentation is an
- issue, and I'm not saying it's not an issue. I'm
- 24 just saying --

- 1 Q. It's not significant?
- A. It's not of a magnitude that's
- greater than, say, most other impounded large
- 4 rivers in Illinois or the Midwest.
- 5 MR. ETTINGER: Are we ready for a
- lunch break yet?
- 7 HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: We need to
- 8 try to get done with Ms. Franzetti.
- 9 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- Q. Dr. Thomas, the turbidity levels
- that you are referring to, again, what is the
- extent of your observations regarding turbidity
- levels in the upper Dresden Island Pool?
- 14 A. My own personal observation would be
- 15 very limited.
- Q. Let's move to question 21. Do you
- have an opinion as to whether sediment toxicity is
- 18 a factor limiting the aquatic life potential of
- this system? And I'm going to amend that question
- to first just refer to the upper Dresden Island
- pool.
- A. There's no doubt that in laboratory
- studies of some organisms, some of those sediments
- are toxic. Having said that, it's sort of like

- the same issue as the cold shock kill that we were
- talking about earlier in terms of the Oyster Creek
- plant. There could be some mortality potentially
- 4 to some organisms or some sediments that are toxic
- but is having a population effect. I have not
- 6 seen any data that would indicate that it's having
- 7 an adverse effect on a population. With this
- 8 caveat, it may be creating some longer-term
- 9 chronic stress to some species. I don't know that
- as a fact, but it could well be a stressor.
- Particularly for some of the invertebrate species
- that may be living near the sediments or in and on
- the sediments.
- Q. And included within your comment,
- you've seen no data indicating sediment toxicity
- as a factor in limiting the aquatic life
- potential, you told me you reviewed the EA report
- with sediment sampling, and you do not believe
- that the data reported in that report in any way
- 20 indicates that sediment toxicity would be a
- limiting factor in the upper Dresden Island pool;
- is that correct?
- A. Well, the same report that talked
- 24 about the toxic sediments, and I am not

- disagreeing -- in fact, I heard a recent study
- done by some researchers from Southern Illinois
- University, they gave a presentation on their
- 4 report, and it basically supported the burden that
- found that ammonia, more than ammonia, PAH's,
- 6 polychlorinated aromatic hydrocarbons, were
- 7 probably the principal source of toxicity to some
- micro organisms that they were dealing with in the
- 9 sediment. They ran a slightly different test than
- Burton ran. I don't want to get into detail. He
- 11 ran pour water. They did detail the sediment
- 12 itself. It was a similar kinds of test. That
- being said, it was a jump to go from there to say
- it's having a population effect. And in Burton's
- report, while he talks about the toxicity, there
- are other places where he takes about thriving
- fish population. So I haven't -- that's what I
- mean by haven't seen -- while I agree that there
- are some toxic sediments, I haven't seen the data
- that said, and this is having this adverse effect
- on populations.
- Q. You read Dr. Burton's pre-filed
- testimony as well as his report, correct?
- A. Yes.

- Q. And you do not believe that he took
- the position that sediment toxicity is a factor
- limiting the aquatic life potential of this
- 4 system?
- A. Well, I can't speak for him. He may
- 6 well have taken that opinion but --
- Q. I'm not asking you to speak for him.
- 8 I'm asking you when you read his report, his
- 9 testimony with the attached report, with regard to
- the sediment sampling and his findings, am I
- 11 correct that you did not believe he was saying
- that sediment toxicity is a limiting constraint on
- the system?
- 14 A. He may have said that, but he also
- said there's a thriving fish population. He also
- said that the population of plankton is similar
- there to other large reservoirs. So I mean, I
- don't know. There's two things. What he said and
- my interpretation of what he said a couple
- different places was what is in the record in
- terms of the populations that are there.
- 22 Q. So you disagree with his
- 23 interpretation of the sediment data that was
- presented in his report?

- 1 A. I don't disagree that some of the
- sediments are toxic. If he said that it's having
- an adverse effect on some of the populations, I
- 4 have not seen the population data that shows that
- 5 these populations are reduced and they are reduced
- 6 because of toxicity of the sediment. That's the
- 7 part I haven't seen. If it's in there, I'll be
- 8 more than happy to have someone point it out to me
- 9 because I'm -- you know, it's a big record, and I
- read through a lot of things fairly quickly so --
- 11 Q. Now, do you have any basis for
- stating that there's no effect on the aquatic life
- from the presence of that contaminated sediment?
- 14 A. I didn't say no effect. In fact, I
- said, there may be some chronic effect on some
- populations. You know, the lower growth or the
- slower growth apparently of small mouth bass or
- the lower condition factor, I should say, does
- that have anything to do with effects on their
- food organisms? I don't know. It may not have
- 21 anything to do with the toxicity of the sediment.
- Q. You mentioned I think you said a
- 23 recent study by some Southern Illinois researchers
- regarding sediment toxicity. Would you describe

- that more fully for me, please, what you are
- ² referring to.
- A. Yes, I could -- this is a paper
- 4 that's going to be published. It's not published
- 5 yet. So what I heard was a progress report.
- 6 Actually, it's a manuscript in preparation for
- 7 publication, but it hasn't been accepted yet or
- 9 published in the peer reviewed literature.
- 9 Q. Who did the study that they are
- preparing to publish?
- 11 A. Michael Litti was the primary -- oh,
- wait. There is a group of authors, and it's a
- 2009 study. The name of it was "Identifying The
- 14 Causes of Sediment Associated Contamination in the
- 15 Illinois River Using A Whole Sediment Toxicity
- 16 Evaluation, TIA.
- Q. Why is that relevant here?
- 18 A. It's relevant because some of their
- stations were in the Dresden Pool.
- Q. Oh, okay.
- 21 A. Or in the Chicago waterways under
- consideration. They did other parts of the
- 23 Illinois River, but really they found the toxic
- effect only in the waterways we are talking about.

- So a lot of their data supports Burton's findings.
- That's all I was saying. But they use a slightly
- different methodology. They use the effect of TIA
- on sediment. My understanding is Dr. Burton used
- it on the pour water. In other words, the water
- 6 between the sediment. We get somewhat different
- 7 results doing those two. I think he found
- 9 pneumonia as having a higher toxicity effect.
- ⁹ They found polychlorinated aromatic hydrocarbons,
- 10 especially in combination with possibly some of
- the oils and greases as having the more toxic
- effect. But, again, you are exposing organisms
- into that mixture and then looking at the toxic
- effects. That's quite different -- so as I said,
- I don't disagree that these, some of these
- sediments are toxic to some organisms, but to take
- that to a population level on organisms that
- aren't living right necessary in contact but maybe
- in the water column but may be moving to different
- areas, exposure becomes a lot different.
- So whether it's having a
- population effect is a whole another area, and I
- 23 have not -- and that's what my testimony was. I
- have not seen the data showing it's been a

- population effect or an effect on any particular
- population due to contamination of the sediment.
- Now, can you tell us who these
- 4 researchers are associated with?
- 5 A. Southern Illinois University.
- 6 Q. I think all we had was Southern
- 7 Illinois, which could be a geographic location and
- 8 not the university.
- ⁹ A. Yes.
- Q. And, again, their findings for
- stations that were within the -- is it --
- 12 A. I think their upper station might
- have been the Stickney plant or somewhere near
- there, and then they had a few stations --
- O. Down stream?
- A. -- including, I think, some in the
- 17 Dresden Island Pool.
- Q. And with respect to their findings,
- they found the sediments were toxic?
- A. Some of them.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- A. Like all studies, there's a lot of
- variations between stations. So you may have a
- toxic area in one area and the next area may not

- be or may be much lower.
- 2 Q. So some of the stations within the
- waterway system we're looking at in this
- 4 proceeding did show that the sediments would be
- 5 toxic to aquatic life, correct?
- A. No, were toxic to the two test
- 7 organisms that they utilized.
- 8 Q. And those test organisms were not
- 9 aquatic life?
- 10 A. No, they are aquatic lives, but you
- can't make the generalization to all aquatic life.
- 12 Fish might not have -- if you put fish in there,
- these are planktonic organisms basically. So if
- you put fish in there, they may have had very
- different results or quite different results.
- HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Dr.
- Thomas, did I understand you that this is
- not yet published? There's no written
- material on this? This is based on you
- seeing a presentation at a conference?
- THE WITNESS: Well, and I also got a
- draft of their paper that is going for
- publication.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Can you supply us

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1	with a copy of the draft?
2	THE WITNESS: I would have to get
3	the author's permission I think. I'm sorry
4	for that.
5	HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: That's
6	quite all right. I thought I might be able
7	to short circuit some questions if we could
8	have a copy of it.
9	THE WITNESS: I would be glad to
10	check to see when it would be able. I'm
11	sure it's going to be out and published and
12	read by a wide audience before this hearing
13	is over.
14	HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: After.
15	But you under estimate me.
16	MS. DEXTER: Can I ask one follow-up
17	before you move on to the next topic. Have
18	you studied other rivers for toxic sediments
19	in them and observed what the fish
20	populations are like in those rivers? Do
21	you have any examples of that?
22	THE WITNESS: Yes, I'd say Raritan
23	Bay, there were highly toxic sediments

there. I'm trying to think of some other

24

1 ones that I was involved in. Of course the 2 Calumet we've already talked about with its toxic sediments. Crab Orchard studies were looking at the effects of both metals and 5 PCP's on their fish populations. And that's a case where there didn't seem to be impact on the fish themselves, but there was an 8 issue of bioaccumulation and impact on 9 potentially human health if fish were 10 consumed. So I think those are the some of 11 the major ones.

12 Well, I was just reminded of 13 some of the stripe bass data we were 14 involved in accumulation of PCB's. 15 was a while where the best breeding 16 population of striped bass along the 17 Atlantic coast was a Hudson River striped 18 bass that had the highest levels of PCB's. 19 So sometimes you can't always associate a 20 contaminate with it's potential effect on 21 the population. It was not having an effect 22 on the bass, but there were concerns about 23 human consumptions of PCB's.

24 BY MS. FRANZETTI:

- Q. Moving on to 22. What type of
- 2 habitat does the white sucker need in order to
- 3 spawn successfully in the waterway?
- 4 A. Usually gravely areas at the lower
- 5 end of pools are sort of a traditional place that
- 6 they spawn.
- 7 Q. To what extent is that habitat
- 8 present in the upper Dresden Island pool as
- 9 defined in this proceeding obviously from the I-55
- bridge up to the northern boundary of the pool?
- 11 A. Again, I would assume there's
- 12 habitat on the --
- 13 Q. No, Dr. Thomas, I don't want you to
- 14 assume. I'm asking you, do you know what type of
- habitat, whether and to what extent there is that
- type of habitat in the upper Dresden Island pool?
- 17 If you don't know, that's fine.
- A. Yes, it is there, that kind of
- 19 habitat.
- Q. Where in the upper Dresden?
- 21 A. In the tail water area.
- Q. Any other place other than the tail
- 23 water?
- A. I wouldn't know for sure.

- Q. What type of habitat does the
- logperch need in order to spawn successfully in
- 3 the waterway?
- 4 A. Let me go back to one other point in
- the white sucker, if I may. I believe in some of
- 6 the EA collections that was in the top -- young of
- 7 the year were in the top ten species that they
- 8 collected in the pool, at least in one year of
- 9 data. So that would sort of indicate that there's
- probably spawning other places in the pool besides
- just the tail water area.
- Q. That's sufficient data for you on
- which to make that conclusion?
- A. Well, my conclusion was that -- my
- judgment was that if it's that common in their
- collection, that there were probably other areas,
- but it could have been all the spawning coming
- from the tail water area. I don't know for sure.
- 19 Q. I'm just trying to -- with all due
- respect, Dr. Thomas, I'm trying to understand when
- it is you need data in order to draw a conclusion
- 22 and when it is you don't?
- A. You always could use some kind of
- 24 data.

- 1 Q. What type of habitat does the
- 2 logperch need in order to spawn successfully in a
- 3 waterway?
- 4 A. Usually clear, weedy, sandy areas.
- 5 It will spawn in riffles, but it will also spawn
- along shore lines and lakes. Could be actually
- 7 more habitat for them to spawn in, in the Dresden
- 8 Island pool, than possibly even the white sucker.
- 9 Q. And, again, do you know to what
- extent that type of habitat is present in the
- upper Dresden Island pool?
- 12 A. I just know from some of the things
- 13 I've read that there are sandy bottom areas in
- 14 places. I don't know -- I couldn't tell you how
- many acres or foot of shore line or whatever.
- Q. Do you know whether there's a
- sufficient amount to support a logperch population
- in the upper Dresden Island pool?
- 19 A. The data seemed to indicate that
- there's not much of a logperch population in the
- pool right now. In other words, there's not --
- whereas I mentioned white sucker being in the top
- ten list, I actually have the data to go back to
- 24 and look. But just off the top of my head, I

- don't think there were that many logperch
- ² captured.
- MR. ETTINGER: Her question was not
- 4 what's there now but what would their
- 5 habitat support.
- 6 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- 7 Q. Do you think -- in other words,
- 8 looking at the logperch numbers you've looked at,
- 9 do you think based on your knowledge of this type
- of habitat being present, there should be more of
- them? And, again, if you haven't made that
- analysis, it's fine, tell me you don't know. But
- if you do, I would like to know.
- A. Well, there's a number of factors
- that go into that. I'm trying to think of the
- best way to answer that. I would think there
- should be -- they should be able to do reasonably
- well in that pool.
- Q. Why is that?
- A. Because I think there is, from what
- I've read, it does seem to be the habitats
- 22 available that they could spawn in and carry out
- their life history.
- Q. And when you say they should be able

- to do reasonably well, that means better than what
- you are seeing in the fish studies that you've
- 3 seen?
- 4 A. Yes, probably higher numbers than
- 5 what I've seen.
- 6 Q. Can you quantify it at all? Do you
- 7 think another ten percent, another 50 percent?
- 8 A. One of the reasons I hesitated is a
- 9 lot of electro fishing has been done. It's not --
- for some of darters like that, that don't have an
- air bladder, it's not a -- it's not a very
- efficient gear to collect them, especially if they
- are in a little bit deeper water. So you tend to
- get small numbers, which may or may not be very
- reflective of the population. Seining, sometimes
- if you catch them in shore, you could get bigger
- numbers, and I do know that seining was done there
- 18 so.
- 19 Q. So there may be more of them right
- now -- what you are saying is because electro
- fishing, for example, does not do a great job of
- collecting logperch, there could be more of them
- there than the numbers bear out?
- A. That's correct.

- Q. Okay, so I understand you correctly.
- 2 So if that's the case, you are not sure how many
- more could really be there?
- 4 A. That's correct.
- 5 Q. Moving on to question 24, do you
- agree with the EA fish studies' conclusions that
- 7 the fish community in the upper Illinois waterway
- 8 is highly stressed and habitat limiting?
- 9 A. I actually could not find in their
- 10 report the use of the term highly stressed system.
- I did see in Mr. Siegert's testimony a discussion
- of habitat, what he considered habitat
- limitations, but maybe somebody could point that
- out to me. I just didn't see. I looked through
- the report actually looking for that term "highly
- stressed" and I did not see that.
- Q. Okay, let's take it apart and then
- state it. Why don't we just narrow it to, do you
- agree with the EA fish studies conclusions that
- the fish community in the upper Illinois waterway
- 21 is habitat limited?
- A. Well, I mean, there are a lot of
- other stresses that were talked about in addition
- 24 to habitat.

- 1 Q. Just asking if you agree with their
- conclusion that the UIW is habitat limited?
- A. To the degree that the most
- 4 impounded bodies of water are habitat limited, I
- 5 would agree with it.
- 6 Q. Moving on to 25, do you agree with
- 7 EA fish studies' conclusion, that diversity in
- 8 this system was dependent on species adapted to
- 9 contaminated conditions and that because of these
- inherent limitations in the ichthyoplankton
- community was not likely to change in the UIW for
- the foreseeable future?
- 13 A. One, I did not find that conclusion
- in the EA ichthyoplankton report.
- 15 Q. Okay.
- A. And I don't think species can adapt
- to contaminated conditions. So I don't agree with
- that phrase.
- 19 Q. You don't agree that species can
- 20 adapt to contaminated conditions?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. What's that based on?
- 23 A. Based on a lot of years of studying
- contaminant effects, on the literature, on

- contamination. You can measure the mortality of
- species to levels of contaminants, but I don't
- think it's a matter of species adapting to
- 4 contaminants. Even when we did, years ago when we
- did avoidance studies, you could get fish to be
- 6 attracted to or avoid high temperatures and they
- may or may not move in and out of low DO or low
- 8 dissolved oxygen values, but if you put copper in
- ⁹ the water or some other contaminant, they do not
- seem to respond. They either get killed, but they
- are not adapting to it. They are not responding
- to it. If you have a gradient of chemicals, for
- instance. So maybe with further thought I would
- think of something that's been an adaptation to a
- contaminant, but generally I would say organisms
- are not adapting to a chemical contaminant in the
- water.
- Q. All right. With respect to --
- 19 strike that.
- I know you said you didn't find
- this conclusion in the EA fish studies that you
- reviewed. Let me ask you to assume that it was
- their conclusion that because of contaminated
- conditions in the UIW, that the ichthyoplankton

- 1 community was not likely to change in the
- foreseeable future. Would you agree with that
- 3 conclusion?
- 4 MS. WILLIAMS: At this point I want
- a clarification for the record of the use of
- the term UIW, the definition of the term
- 7 UIW.
- MS. FRANZETTI: I'll narrow it. I
- 9 think the way it was used in the reports was
- a little broader than this, but for purposes
- of this question, we'll go from the Chicago
- Sanitary & Ship Canal down to the I-55
- bridge?
- 14 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, can you
- repeat the question?
- MS. FRANZETTI: Let me try and
- 17 rephrase it.
- 18 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- 19 Q. I'm going to ask you to assume,
- because you said you didn't find this conclusion
- in the report --
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. All right. So I want to just lay
- 24 out --

- 1 A. Assume that they did.
- Q. -- lay out the question for you and
- ask you if you agree with it. So with respect to
- 4 the conclusion that because of contaminated
- 5 conditions in the UIW as I've just defined it
- 6 creating inherent limitations in the
- ichthyoplankton community, do you agree that it is
- 8 not likely to change in the foreseeable future?
- 9 A. Well --
- Q. And you may not have an opinion on
- 11 this?
- 12 A. I do have an opinion. I don't
- really think the chemicals in the bottom are
- limiting the ichthyoplankton.
- Q. Why is that?
- A. Well, you've got a number of nest
- builders out there, various sun fish species,
- large mouth bass, their population. They are
- doing as well in that pool as we find down river.
- 20 So they are at least finding areas of carrying out
- their lifecycles and producing young that are
- equivalent to other impounded parts of the
- 23 Illinois River, for example. On the other hand
- there may be -- I mean, it wouldn't surprise me if

- 1 chemical contamination is a stressor on some fish
- along with other stressors that have been
- identified on the system. So it could well be,
- 4 especially if there were hot spots of
- 5 contamination that were identified, that removing
- some of those or burying them or whatever, making
- 7 them less available to fish population could lead
- 8 to a reduction in that stressor, and whatever
- 9 response might come from that by the aquatic
- 10 community.
- 11 Q. Moving on to 26, in your testimony
- you indicate that, "These waterways could support
- tolerant or intermediately tolerant species."
- 14 That's Section 3, fifth page, second paragraph.
- And indicate further that this conclusion is based
- on your personal knowledge of the CAWS. Please
- explain what personal knowledge you are referring
- 18 to?
- MR. ETTINGER: Did your question say
- 20 CAWS?
- MS. FRANZETTI: Yes, because that's
- what I believe he referenced in this part of
- testimony.
- MR. ETTINGER: Okay, now we are

- talking about the whole water body, not just
- the upper Dresden Pool.
- THE WITNESS: That I believe pretty
- well came from the fisheries report, the
- data in the fisheries' report that was
- 6 collected by the district, and that is in
- 7 the record. And I think that may have been
- one of their -- I mean, their data really
- showed that over the years there has been a
- positive response from the fish population
- in many parts of the Chicago area waterway.
- 12 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- Q. And what about -- can you just
- elaborate in terms of your personal knowledge is,
- having gone through the district's fish data,
- 16 correct?
- 17 A. Yeah. I mean -- right.
- Q. Okay. And based on that data, you
- 19 have drawn the conclusion that these waterways can
- support tolerant or intermediately tolerant
- species, correct?
- A. Some portions of the waterways, yes.
- Q. Which portions?
- A. Particularly those portions

- designated as waterway A, the A category. There's
- A and B waters. Those designated A, I think have
- 3 some that might be. Immediately tolerant is not
- 4 the term that's being used here. There's tolerant
- 5 and -- I get sort of mixed up in the different
- 6 terminology.
- 7 Q. Were you trying to mirror the
- 8 terminology that's being used in the proposed
- 9 resolution?
- A. At that point I wasn't familiar with
- the terms that were being used.
- 12 Q. I don't know I want to take the
- time, but it might have been moderately tolerant.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Off the record.
- 15 (Discussion off the record.)
- 16 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- 17 Q. Dr. Thomas, maybe let me just ask
- you directly, what did you mean by intermediately
- tolerant, and can you explain that a little more?
- A. I think that was like small mouth
- bass or white sucker, possibly yellow perch.
- Q. Moving on to 27. You used the
- 23 phrase in your testimony, lower Dresden Pool. So
- 24 please identify the boundaries of the area that

- 1 you are referring to at the bottom of page 4 of
- your testimony where you reference "lower Dresden
- Pool, and particularly is that -- does that
- 4 include any portion of the pool that is below
- south of the I-55 bridge?
- A. Yes, that needs to -- I probably
- 7 meant either the lower Des Plaines River, but more
- specifically the upper Dresden. It should be the
- 9 upper Dresden Pool, rather than the lower. That's
- a correction that should be made as a correction
- in my testimony. It should be the upper Dresden
- 12 Pool.
- 13 Q. I'm trying not to talk over you, but
- 14 I'm never sure when you are done. For the court
- reporter's sake, I apologize.
- So there you are intending to
- refer to the upper Dresden Island pool as the
- 18 Agency has defined its boundaries in this
- 19 rulemaking, correct?
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. Dr. Thomas, I did have one more
- follow-up question on this issue of tolerant,
- intermediately tolerant species. My question is,
- is that the fish community that -- strike that.

- Is that how you would describe
- the fish community that is already present in the
- upper Dresden island pool as consisting of
- 4 tolerant and intermediately tolerant species?
- A. You are asking me a slightly
- 6 different question than 28, I take it.
- Q. Yes, yes. I'm asking you whether if
- you were to describe the fish community that's
- 9 currently present in the upper Dresden Island
- pool, would you describe it as consisting of
- tolerant and intermediately tolerant species?
- 12 A. Yes, I think that would be
- 13 reasonable.
- Q. I'm just trying to give more
- description to what you meant by those terms.
- Moving on to question 28. What
- criteria do you believe should be used to identify
- a species as a representative aquatic species for
- purposes of aquatic life use designation?
- MS. DIERS: I want to object to this
- question. The wording "representative
- aquatic species" has not been used in this
- proceeding or Mr. Thomas' testimony for
- purposes of aquatic life use designation.

- 1 It's only been used in the context of
- establishing thermal criteria to support
- those. If you are willing to rephrase, I'll
- 4 withdraw my objection, but I object.
- 5 MS. FRANZETTI: Well, let's do it
- 6 this way.
- 7 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- Q. Dr. Thomas, are you familiar with
- 9 the phrase representative aquatic species?
- 10 A. Are you using that as the same as
- 11 the RIS list?
- 12 Q. That's really my question. Separate
- from the RIS list, do you have any familiarity
- with the term representative aquatic species?
- ¹⁵ First let's start there.
- A. Okay, I guess in my mind I was
- looking at those as about the same. You are
- taking a subsection of the total fish that are
- there and using that, whether it's temperature
- criteria or some other, you are using a smaller
- group of organisms to represent a larger body of
- 22 organisms.
- Q. Right. So you are equating RIS and
- 24 RAS as essentially having the same meaning?

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. So use RIS, given that that will get
- 3 us past the objection, what criteria do you
- 4 believe should be used to identify a species as a
- 5 resident -- what does the I stand for in RIS?
- A. Important.
- 7 Q. So what criteria do you believe
- should be used to identify a species as a resident
- 9 important species for purposes of aquatic life use
- 10 designations?
- 11 A. Well, I realize the RIS has been
- used a lot in reference to temperature
- particularly, but I think Yoder put it pretty
- well, having an adequate representation of the
- 15 spectrum of thermal tolerances, that spectrum I
- think hits other aspects of a life history too,
- and one of the problems, I think Yoder actually
- pointed this out is, we have -- whether the data
- is on temperature or oxygen or a contaminant, we
- tend to have much less information available on
- some of the more sensitive species. One of the
- reasons is they are not that easy to raise in the
- laboratory or to work with. So the fathead minnow
- that's used all the time. It's a fairly easy

- species to raise. It's fairly hearty. But
- protecting it isn't going to necessarily protect a
- yariety of other species in the system that are a
- 4 little more sensitive. So I think trying to pick
- 5 a range of species that sort of have a spectrum of
- tolerances, if you will, temperature has been the
- 7 primary way of looking at that, but as I said, it
- 8 could relate to other things, is a way of trying
- ⁹ to assure whatever standard you are setting can be
- protective of that community. And if you want to
- be conservative about it, then you try to pick
- things on the more sensitive end to make sure you
- are protecting all of the system, not just the
- more tolerant points.
- Q. Okay. Moving on to question 29. On
- page 5 of your testimony in the last paragraph of
- Section 2, you reference that in the EA 1994
- ichthyoplankton investigation, which is attachment
- 19 LL in this proceeding, that roughly 22,000 larval,
- young of year fish were collected. Do you agree
- that the EA 1994 investigation also stated that
- only six species or taxa accounted for 86 percent
- of those individuals collected?
- A. Yes. And I think that's a number I

- couldn't verify off the top of my head, that it
- was actually 86 percent, but something in that
- order I would certainly agree to, and I don't find
- 4 that unusual for a lot of water bodies.
- 5 Relatively few species may make a large portion of
- 6 ichthyoplankton.
- 7 Q. Moving on to the next question. Did
- you review the EA findings that these six species
- 9 share early life history characteristics that
- 10 allow them to be successful in the system. Namely
- certain adaptations that allowed their eggs or
- larva to tolerate low dissolved oxygen levels and
- to have minimal contact with bottom sediments?
- A. Well, I'm not sure about the
- tolerant low dissolved oxygen levels.
- Q. Why are you not sure about that?
- A. Because if you look at sun fish or
- bass, they fan their eggs for the very purpose of
- 19 keeping oxygenated water flowing over the eggs.
- 20 So unless someone actually measured DO in the nest
- 21 and showed that those eggs are viable and hatching
- out at one or two parts per million dissolved
- oxygen, their very behavior is set up to keep
- oxygen on the eggs or not whether, it's successful

- or not, is another matter. Also, the blunt nose
- minnows, which is another common fish in the
- 3 system, lays eggs under rocks or hard substrate.
- 4 It also will fan the eggs with its tail in moving
- water past the eggs to provide more oxygen, and
- 6 obviously sun fish eggs which now --
- 7 Q. Dr. Thomas, can I just interrupt you
- 8 there and say, and you don't consider their
- 9 fanning of the eggs an adaptation as referenced in
- this question?
- A. Well, it is an adaptation. They've
- been doing it for -- I don't know how far back you
- have to go. That's part of their life history
- strategy.
- Q. My point being, if there's low DO
- levels in the water, those two fishes, unlike
- others, ability to fan their eggs is an adaptation
- to deal with in part -- in part it helps them deal
- with the low dissolved oxygen levels in the water,
- 20 correct?
- A. Well, adaptation probably goes way
- 22 back to their history to the fact that sometimes
- organics and bottom sediments can lower the
- dissolved oxygen in those sediments, and fanning

- insures that there's going to be more oxygen over
- the eggs and insures a higher part of survival.
- It's not an adaptation in the sense we're using
- 4 earlier in terms of contaminants, but it is a
- 5 strategy that insures that they are more
- 6 successful under a variety of conditions,
- 7 including a condition of low DO.
- 8 Q. Now, I'm sorry, I interrupted you.
- 9 Was there anything else about that EA finding that
- the six species taxa shared early life history
- characteristics that allowed them to be successful
- in the system that you don't agree with or you
- would like to distinguish?
- A. Well, you say have minimal contact
- with bottom sediments. Something like the blunt
- nose minnow or fat head minnow, which will lay
- eggs under a hard substrate, they are probably
- under a rock or log or whatever, they are probably
- not in -- generally, not in contact with bottom
- sediments, but the sun fish and bass are making
- their nests on the bottom. So they are going to
- have some contact with the bottom materials. Now,
- obviously when you fan a nest, one of the objects,
- besides the DO, is to keep sediment off the eggs

- too. So in that sense, they are not as exposed to
- the fine sediments that may be settling out. That
- was part of the statement. They are in contact
- 4 with the bottom gravel, sand or whatever they have
- 5 laid their eggs on.
- 6 Q. Any other distinctions you want to
- 7 draw with regard to those EA findings?
- 8 A. No, I don't think so.
- 9 Q. Moving on to question 30. Have you
- evaluated the effect of the impounded nature of
- the upper Dresden Island pool on the quality of
- the aquatic life community that it can take?
- A. Yes, and I'd like to take a little
- time to answer this question because this is
- actually both a past and present research interest
- of mine. I mentioned the Kaskaskia River where I
- had some earlier training. When I first started
- 18 studying on the Kaskaskia, there were no
- impoundments on that river, although the Carlvle
- dam was pretty well constructed, but one of my
- interests has been the effects of impoundments on
- fish populations. And I don't disagree with the
- data that's been in this record that impoundments
- do change the nature of the fish community. Taker

- from a flowing river to a more impounded still
- water, you help some species of fish, but often
- you may even eliminate other species of fish that
- 4 need flowing waters.
- 5 Fish populations, as I think
- 6 I've testified before, in the Dresden Island pool
- are similar to pools further downstream in the
- 8 Illinois River, with some exceptions. I think
- 9 because of the stresses that go with impoundments,
- it makes it even more important that you have a
- good water quality because you've already
- generated some other stresses on some of the fish
- populations that they might not have in a
- 14 free-flowing system.
- 15 Q. So in your opinion because of the
- account impounded nature of the upper Dresden
- Pool, in fact the water quality standards should
- be stricter than they are in an unimpounded pool?
- 19 A. I didn't mean to comment on the
- standards, but I think that when you have a
- variety of stressors on a system to a degree that
- you can reduce any of or all of those or at least
- some of them, that's bound to be able to help
- those fish populations that are there.

- Q. Will it help if someone of the other
- stressors is having a bigger, more significant
- effect that will basically prevent your changing
- 4 one of them from having any significant impact?
- 5 A. I know that's an issue in this
- 6 hearing, and despite all the evidence seen, I
- haven't really seen a quantification necessarily
- of the impact of each of the stressors or the
- 9 stressors in combination. It just appears from
- the record that when you can remove some of those
- stressors, that you do see a positive response.
- 12 If we look in the Cal Sag, for instance, when they
- put in the sequel stations in the area they seem
- 14 to get more small mouth bass and channel catfish,
- and there seems to be some positive response from
- the fish populations there. The TARP system,
- 17 removing some of the storm water overflow into the
- 18 system, seems to have shown a -- the aquatic
- 19 community has seemed to respond to that. So there
- is evidence that as we've improved to what level
- to what is the most significant, those are
- difficult issues that scientists can and will
- 23 argue about.
- MS. FRANZETTI: I think we have

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1		covered many of those issues already today.
2		Thank you, Dr. Thomas, I'm done with
3		my questions.
4		HEARING OFFICER TIPSORD: Okay,
5		let's go ahead and break for lunch. We'll
6		come back in about an hour. It's twenty to
7		1:00.
8		(Whereupon a lunch recess was
9		taken.)
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