

Oct 5, 2010

Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center 100 W. Randolph Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601

Pct# 501

Thank you for your First Notice which recognizes that the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River are being used for recreational purposes. I support Illinois EPA's proposal to require disinfection at MWRD sewage plants, and to protect aquatic life in these waters from thermal pollution.

RECEIVED
CLERK'S OFFICE

OCT 18 2010

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

The Chicago River has been a pathway for pathogens for too long! Running through the heart of the Chicago Region the river has long been denied some of the basic goals of the Clean Water Act namely that all waters should be "drinkable, swimmable and fishable." Failure to disinfect sewage from all Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) treatment plants put both people and wildlife at risk of becoming ill.

Growing up near the river over here on Montrose & Western, I have seen dramatic changes. These changes have made the river a beautiful escape from the hustle & bustle of the big city. The improvements along the riverbank are welcoming & encouraged the community to experience what the river has to offer. But this welcome will be a waste if the water is left untreated. No one should have to risk their health to enjoy the city's ecology.

The Chicago Area Waterways and Lower Des Plaines River are important Illinois resources. As you move forward with the rulemaking process, I urge you to require MWRD to disinfect the sewage it discharges to these waterways.

Sincerely,

Miss Kristina Lugo
4524 N Artesian Ave
Chicago, IL 60625-3004
(773) 632-6045

Oct 11, 2010

PC#502

Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center 100 W. Randolph Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601

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The Chicago Area Waterways and Lower Des Plaines River are important Illinois resources. As you move forward with the rulemaking process, I urge you to require MWRD to disinfect the sewage it discharges to these waterways.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Hasesler
3951 N Paulina St
Chicago, IL 60613-2517

Oct 13, 2010

Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center 100 W. Randolph Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601

Pc#503

RECEIVED
CLERK'S OFFICE

OCT 18 2010

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

Thank you for your First Notice which recognizes that the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River are being used for recreational purposes. I support Illinois EPA's proposal to require disinfection at MWRD sewage plants, and to protect aquatic life in these waters from thermal pollution.

The Chicago River is an amazing asset to the state of Illinois. It provides recreation and enjoyment to thousands of residents and habitat to thousands of animals. We must bring the quality of the River up to the standards set in the 1970s by ensuring that bacteria are not allowed to run unchecked into the river.

The Chicago River has been a pathway for pathogens for too long! Running through the heart of the Chicago Region the river has long been denied some of the basic goals of the Clean Water Act namely that all waters should be "drinkable, swimmable and fishable." Failure to disinfect sewage from all Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) treatment plants put both people and wildlife at risk of becoming ill.

The Chicago Area Waterways and Lower Des Plaines River are important Illinois resources. As you move forward with the rulemaking process, I urge you to require MWRD to disinfect the sewage it discharges to these waterways.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sasha Kerlow
1213 W Henderson St
Chicago, IL 60657-1403
(773) 529-5436

September 27, 2010

John Therriault, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

PCH#504

RECEIVED
CLERK'S OFFICE
OCT 01 2010
STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

RE: Rule Making R08-009

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

On behalf of my family, I am writing to express my support for the recommended water quality standard improvements proposed by the Illinois EPA for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River as rule making R08-009.

These changes are long overdue and recommended only after five years of study on the CAWS and seven on the Lower Des Plaines. We should all support the Illinois EPA's effort and approve the changes.

As a kayaker who uses the river, I think it is critical that:

- The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District disinfect sewage treatment plant effluent to kill bacteria and protect public health and
- Temperature and dissolved oxygen standards be implemented to protect fish and help them flourish.

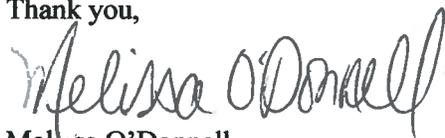
Over the years, the entire CAWS system has changed dramatically. The water, once full of raw sewage and industrial filth, has vastly improved through the leadership of agencies like the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and its Tunnel and Reservoir Plan. Public access has increased considerably as local governments incorporated these rivers into their master planning. The City of Chicago, the Chicago Park District, and suburbs like Blue Island and Skokie have poured millions into river access for paddling, fishing, and crew. And so much work has been done to improve habitat and control pollution that in the Chicago River system, species of fish have climbed from under 10 to nearly 70, including game fish favorites like large-mouth bass and bluegill and yellow perch.

Because a review like this only comes along every 20 years, right now we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to continue our momentum by supporting the Illinois EPA recommendations so we can make the next quantum leap forward in water quality.

There is no magic bullet and or all-in-one measure that can eliminate water pollution but we know that if we want the Chicago River to continue to improve and serve our communities as a recreational, natural and economic resource, disinfection and the rest of the Illinois EPA's recommendations are essential.

I believe that as a society it is our moral obligation to ensure that we work to achieve the highest potential for shared resources, including and especially water. And as stewards of these natural resources, we should not be seeking the minimum in improvement, but the maximum.

Thank you,



Melissa O'Donnell
8636 Kathleen Lane
Tinley Park, IL 60487
(708) 334-6656