ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD)

IN THE MATTER OF:

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AND) R08-09

EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS FOR THE) (RulemakingCHICAGO AREA WATERWAY SYSTEM) Water)

AND THE LOWER DES PLAINES

RIVER: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

TO 35 Ill. Adm. Code Parts 301,

302, 303 and 304

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS held in the above entitled cause before Hearing Officer Marie Tipsord, called by the Illinois Pollution Control Board, taken by Jennifer L. Wiesch, CSR, for the State of Illinois, at the Michael Bilanic Building, 160 North LaSalle Street, Room N-502, Chicago, Illinois, on Tuesday, the 9th day of November, 2010, commencing at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

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5	MR. ANAND RAO, Senior Environmental Scientist
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7	MR. THOMAS JOHNSON
8	MS. CARRIE ZALEWSKI
9	MS. ANDREA MOORE
10	MR. DANIEL ROBERTSON, on behalf of GARY BLANKENSHIP
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- MS. TIPSORD: Good morning, everyone. My
- name is Marie Tipsord, and I've been appointed by
- 3 the Board to serve as hearing officer in this
- 4 proceeding entitled Water Quality Standards and
- 5 Effluent Limitations for the Chicago Area Waterway
- 6 System and Lower Des Plaines River. Proposed
- 7 Amendments to 35 Ill. Admin. Code 301, 302, 303 and
- 8 304.
- 9 This is Docket Number R08-9, and we are
- in sub dockets C and D. With me today, to my
- immediate left is Acting Chairman G. Tanner Girard.
- 12 To his left, Board Member Carrie Zalewski. And once
- again, Board Member Andrea Moore, as soon as traffic
- 14 allows. She was trying to get in the express
- 15 lane -- ah, perfect timing.
- MS. MOORE: Sorry.
- MS. TIPSORD: I just told them that you were
- just in the express lane and called me, so. To my
- 19 immediate -- to my far right is Board Member Thomas
- Johnson. To my immediate right, from our technical
- 21 staff, Anand Rao. And to his right, Alisa Liu.
- Today is the second day of our hearing,
- 23 and this is -- in these sub dockets, we'll be in our
- 45th day overall. Also from the Board staff today,

- 1 Daniel Robertson is here. He's assistant to Board
- 2 Member Gary Blankenship. We are continuing today to
- 3 hear testimony on the issue of Asian carp and the
- 4 impact of the measures to control Asian carp on the
- 5 proposed regulations.
- At a prehearing conference, a schedule
- 7 was set. And we have gone down to where we are
- going to begin today with Jennifer Wasik from the
- 9 Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater
- 10 Chicago. We'll have questions from the IEPA, then
- the Environmental Law on Policy Center, finishing
- 12 with Midwest Generation -- excuse me, we will
- conclude the hearing by going through the testimony
- 14 from the American Waterway Operators.
- The testimony will be marked as an
- exhibit and entered as if read. If necessary, we
- will continue from day-to-day until tomorrow
- morning. I think we're probably not going to have
- 19 to do that. Keep our fingers crossed. Today we
- will break for lunch. We'll take an extra half-hour
- or so at lunchtime. The Board has a closed
- deliberative session scheduled at one o'clock.
- Anyone may ask a follow-up question. You
- need not wait until your turn to ask questions. I

- do ask that you raise your hand, wait for me to
- acknowledge you; and after I've acknowledged you,
- please state your name, who you represent before you
- 4 begin your questioning. Please speak one at a time.
- If you're speaking over each other, the court
- 6 reporter will not be able to get your questions on
- 7 the record. Please note that any questions asked by
- 8 a Board member or staff are intended to help build a
- 9 complete record for the Board's decision and not to
- express any preconceived notion or bias. With that,
- 11 Mr. Girard.
- MR. GIARD: Good morning. Welcome to hearing
- day 45. Let's get to work.
- MS. TIPSORD: Thank you. And is there
- anything else preliminarily before we begin? Okay.
- 16 Then could we have Ms. Wasik sworn in.
- 17 (WHEREUPON, the witness was duly
- 18 sworn.)
- MS. TIPSORD: And do we have a copy of her
- 20 pre-filed testimony?
- MR. ANDES: We do. We have a copy paper of
- her -- paper copy of her testimony and a disc which
- 23 includes all the voluminous attachments.
- MS. TIPSORD: Okay. If there's no objection,

- we will mark the pre-filed testimony of Jennifer
- Wasik as Exhibit 431. Seeing none, it's
- 3 Exhibit 431.
- 4 (Document marked as IPCB Exhibit
- No. 431 for identification.)
- 6 MR. ANDES: And we also have a corrected
- page, which I provided to IPA yesterday afternoon.
- 8 We found an error in attachment eight. The number
- 9 of species collected in 2009 was actually 11, not
- 10 eight. So weave a revised version of attachment
- 11 eight to introduce.
- MS. TIPSORD: All right. If there's no
- objection, we'll mark the revised table as
- Exhibit 432. Seeing none, it's Exhibit 432.
- 15 (Document marked as IPCB Exhibit
- No. 432 for identification.)
- MS. TIPSORD: And with that, we'll begin with
- the questions from the IEPA.
- JENNIFER WASIK,
- called as a witness herein, having been first duly
- sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 22 EXAMINATION
- 23 BY MS. WILLIAMS:
- Q. Good morning, Ms. Wasik. I think I'll

- just ask a couple clarification questions about
- 2 Exhibit 432 for the record.
- A. Okay.
- Q. Can you identify for us which species are
- 5 altered from this original testimony?
- A. Yes. Under 2009, I've added bluntner,
- minnow, emerald, shiner and spot finch on here, and
- 8 that was because I realized later that the
- 9 spreadsheet I had gotten the original fish species
- 10 from didn't include fish that we had bottled and
- identified in the lab. So when I added those, it
- was 11, or as Roy pointed out, ten species, because
- you don't want to count the hybrid.
- Q. Okay. Thank you. And so is there any
- other changes from the original?
- 16 A. That was it. That was the only year that
- there was a problem.
- 18 Q. Let's turn to pre-filed question number
- one. On page 11 of your testimony, you discussed
- that ammonia was mainly being considered to produce
- 21 toxic zones in the CAWS to prevent this passage.
- Has chlorine also been considered to produce a toxic
- 23 zone?
- A. No, not that I'm aware of.

- Q. And why not?
- A. I think it wasn't part of the discussion
- 3 because it wasn't considered a viable or sustainable
- 4 option to purchase a chemical to dump into the
- 5 waterway. There's storage issues with chlorine and
- 6 also toxic byproducts or degradation products, so
- 7 chlorine wouldn't be seen as a good option for a
- 8 toxic zone. You'd also have to dechlorinate
- 9 downstream of the toxic zone.
- Q. And when you say it wasn't a viable
- option to purchase a chemical, explain what you
- mean.
- A. Well, ammonia, frankly, would be a
- 14 cost-effective solution. It doesn't involve buying
- a chemical and storing a chemical and dumping it in
- 16 the waterway, it's just a --
- 17 O. And if --
- 18 A. -- would involve basically avoiding
- 19 treatment -- certain treatment costs, so, in fact,
- it would actually be less money than -- it would
- cost less to have an ammonia zone than not to, if
- 22 that makes sense.
- Q. But if the agent -- but if the district
- was chlorinating its effluent for disinfection

- 1 obviously, that would be --
- 2 A. Well, for --
- 3 O. -- not in --
- A. -- chlorinating our effluent, by the time
- it was discharged, there would no longer be
- 6 chlorine, it would be dechlorinated. We wouldn't --
- 7 well, there -- we wouldn't be discharging --
- Q. Or you could not be -- I mean, that would
- 9 be the alternative; right? In the '80s, that's what
- was happening; correct?
- 11 A. Right. In the '80s, we were
- 12 chlorinating, and it was shown to be -- that after
- we stopped chlorinating, there was a large
- improvement in the fish population.
- MR. ETTINGER: I'm Albert Ettinger. That's
- 16 E-t-t-i-n-g-e-r. I represent the Sierra Club and
- 17 Prairie Rivers. I do not represent ELPC. The -- my
- question is -- and this follow-ups on yours.
- 19 You say, "Another long-term option the
- District has been asked to complete an efficiency
- study on using the planned effluent to produce toxic
- zones. This would focus mainly on the use of
- ammonia discharge." By who were you asked to do
- 24 this?

- 1 THE WITNESS: This was with discussions, I
- think, at the executive committee of the Asian Carp
- 3 Regional Coordinating Committee.
- 4 MR. ETTINGER: Do you know who was pushing
- 5 that?
- 6 MR. ANDES: Let's -- let's --
- 7 THE WITNESS: I'm not aware --
- MR. ANDES: You want to rephrase that so it
- 9 does not talk about pushing.
- THE WITNESS: I would, yeah. I'm not aware
- 11 of --
- MR. ETTINGER: Do you know who is proposing
- 13 that?
- THE WITNESS: I'm not sure. I wasn't part of
- those discussions. I don't think anyone is pushing
- it by any means, but it was -- I think it was an
- option that was discussed in that meeting, and so we
- were asked to do a feasibility study --
- 19 MR. ETTINGER: If a --
- 20 THE WITNESS: -- for --
- MR. ETTINGER: Just to clarify --
- THE WITNESS: Just a literature search.
- MR. ETTINGER: Just to clarify, it wasn't the
- 24 District's idea?

- 1 THE WITNESS: I'm not even sure.
- MR. ETTINGER: Well, was it the District's
- 3 idea?
- 4 THE WITNESS: Like I -- like I said, I don't
- 5 know. I wasn't part of that discussion. That was
- 6 an executive level...
- 7 MR. ETTINGER: Okay. So is it your
- understanding that anything would be done downstream
- 9 to take the ammonia out, or would it be anticipated
- that the ammonia would just go ahead and kill the
- Upper Illinois River as it did down to Peru until
- 12 the '20s and '30s?
- THE WITNESS: I believe it would be removed.
- MR. ETTINGER: Where?
- THE WITNESS: I don't know.
- MR. ETTINGER: Thank you.
- 17 THE WITNESS: I mean, the --
- MR. ANDES: It's your understanding that the
- 19 District was asked to consider this option, correct?
- THE WITNESS: Right. As far as I know,
- our -- part of it is a literature search to just
- determine basically what levels of ammonia might
- have an effect on Asian carp.
- MR. ETTINGER: Thank you.

- 1 BY MS. WILLIAMS:
- Q. Question two. Is another suggested
- 3 strategy for potentially controlling the spread of
- 4 Asian carp the reduction of nutrient levels from the
- 5 MWRDGC plant effluents?
- A. Not that I know of. Since nutrient
- 7 levels don't correlate well with other levels in
- 8 Illinois, according to the recent studies over the
- 9 past few years that this state has -- has had the
- 10 council -- they've had scientists researching and
- 11 trying to find correlations between nutrients and
- 12 algae, and they haven't been able to identify a
- really clear relationship, so I don't think we'd
- 14 be -- it would be expected that decreasing nutrient
- levels would decrease algae, which is a food source
- 16 for the Asian carp. Also, you'd have to consider
- 17 the fact that agricultural inputs are the
- 18 predominant source of nutrients in the Illinois
- 19 waterway.
- MR. ETTINGER: Are Illinois --
- MS. WILLIAMS: Wait --
- MR. ETTINGER: I'm sorry.
- MS. WILLIAMS: Let me follow-up, please.

24

- 1 BY MS. WILLIAMS:
- Q. So I think -- I mean, accepting your
- answer that you don't thing it would work, I think
- 4 my question was: Is that one of the suggested
- 5 potential strategies by the -- what do you call
- 6 this -- mini Asian carp --
- 7 MR. ANDES: Is there a particular statement
- 9 you're citing to?
- 9 MS. WILLIAMS: No, I'm not citing to
- anything.
- 11 BY MS. WILLIAMS:
- 12 Q. I'm asking if that's one of the
- 13 potential --
- A. Not that I'm --
- Q. -- strategies that --
- 16 A. -- aware of.
- 17 Q. -- you could --
- MR. ETTINGER: You're not aware of a specific
- 19 recommendation within the Asian carp framework for
- consideration of nutrient reduction as a means of
- 21 controlling Asian carp population?
- THE WITNESS: Specifically related to the
- distract of reducing nutrients?
- MR. ETTINGER: I don't know if it's specific.

- 1 Unfortunately, I don't have the document with me.
- MS. WILLIAMS: Well, is it an exhibit? I
- 3 mean, I'd rather --
- 4 MR. ETTINGER: Do you have the framework?
- MS. WILLIAMS: I have -- I have the May 2010.
- 6 MS. TIPSORD: And, Ms. Wasik, keep your voice
- 7 up. You're fading away a little bit.
- 8 THE WITNESS: Okay.
- 9 MS. TIPSORD: Again with all the outside
- noise, I'm not sure how much they can hear.
- 11 THE WITNESS: Okay.
- MR. ETTINGER: Yes. Page 37 of the Asian
- 13 Carp Control Strategy Framework Study Efficacy of
- 14 Reducing Asian Carp Food Source Through Nutrient
- Removal. Are you aware of that?
- THE WITNESS: I've read the document. I
- haven't read that page recently, but.
- MR. ETTINGER: Okay. Well --
- THE WITNESS: The -- there's a study being
- done, if that's what you're saying.
- MR. ETTINGER: That's one of the
- 22 recommendations, but --
- THE WITNESS: I don't have the document with
- 24 me, but --

- MR. ETTINGER: We can all read the document.
- We were just asking if you knew anything in addition
- 3 to the document, and I --
- MS. TIPSORD: If you don't have the document
- with you, if you would like to borrow one of ours,
- 6 because it is an attachment to your testimony,
- because I would guess that you're going to get more
- 9 questions.
- 9 THE WITNESS: Okay.
- MS. TIPSORD: Okay. So, I mean, I have a
- 11 copy of it right here that I haven't marked on if
- 12 you would like to borrow it.
- 13 THE WITNESS: Okay.
- MR. ETTINGER: I'm sorry, were you going on
- 15 to --
- MS. WILLIAMS: You can --
- MR. ETTINGER: -- nutrients or --
- MS. WILLIAMS: I'm going to flip the page, so
- if you want to ask follow-ups, that's fine.
- MR. ETTINGER: I was just going to ask: Is
- 21 it your understanding that agriculture is a major
- source of nutrients in the Upper Dresden Island
- 23 Pool?
- THE WITNESS: I'm not sure in the Upper

- 1 Dresden.
- 2 MR. ETTINGER: Thank you.
- MS. FRANZETTI: If I may. Ms. Wasik --
- 4 MS. TIPSORD: Please identify yourself.
- 5 MS. FRANZETTI: I'm sorry. Susan Franzetti,
- 6 counsel for Midwest Generation. Could you explain a
- 7 little further what you are referring to when you
- were referencing the fact of poor correlation
- 9 between -- and that's what I'm not exactly sure --
- between what and what elements of nutrients and
- algal growth were you referring to?
- 12 THE WITNESS: Right. Well, as the State has
- been promulgating or attempting to promulgate
- 14 nutrient standards for Illinois, they have worked
- with several institutions at universities through
- the C-FAR Council for approving agricultural
- 17 research to look at how nutrients -- using existing
- data in Illinois, how nutrients affect various end
- 19 points, biological end points, like fish or
- 20 macroinvertebrate metrics or algae through
- 21 chlorophyll levels, and they have not found a clear
- relationship in Illinois streams between chlorophyll
- 23 and nutrient levels. So there isn't a particular
- 24 point where you could say reduce nutrients to this

- level and algae would be expected to decrease.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Thank you.
- MR. ETTINGER: In your understanding, are
- 4 those studies of streams or of lakes or of
- 5 reservoirs or of large waters?
- 6 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. In streams.
- 7 MR. ETTINGER: So those are all stream
- 8 studies of relatively small streams?
- 9 THE WITNESS: Not just relatively small
- 10 streams. It involved --
- MR. ETTINGER: What's the --
- THE WITNESS: -- larger rivers, as well.
- MR. ETTINGER: What's the biggest stream that
- you believe that Mark David and others would have
- 15 studied that and looked at?
- 16 THE WITNESS: A larger stream, I couldn't --
- 17 couldn't say. I think they used -- let me see. I
- think that they used IEPA data, so I'm assuming that
- they were able to use Illinois river data, but I'm
- 20 not sure.
- MR. ANDES: To clarify, we can provide a copy
- of that report. For the record, it was prepared by
- 23 Professor Mark David at U of Illinois for Illinois
- EPA. And we'd be glad to provide a copy of that

- 1 report for the record. And if there are questions
- that we can answer during the Aquatic and Habitat
- 3 Hearings, I'd be glad to --
- 4 MR. ETTINGER: I think we'll save it for the
- 5 permanent appeal.
- 6 MR. ANDES: Let me follow-up with one other
- question. You talked a little bit, Ms. Wasik, about
- 8 chlorophyll. Can you explain what the significance
- 9 of chlorophyll is here relative to algae and how
- this set of water bodies ranks relative to other
- parts of the Illinois waterway?
- 12 THE WITNESS: So chlorophyll is a measure of
- algae, and if you measure chlorophyll from a water
- sample that's taken out of a waterway, you can
- estimate the amount of phytoplankton or suspended
- 16 algae in the water column. The District measures
- chlorophyll at 59 stations throughout the Chicago
- area, and then we also measure chlorophyll along the
- 19 Illinois waterway at several locations six times a
- year previous to 2009, and then three times a year
- 21 since then.
- And basically we've found that in the
- 23 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, the chlorophyll is
- lower than in some of the downstream canals of the

- 1 Illinois waterway. So in the ship canal, on
- 2 average, the chlorophyll is about six micrograms per
- 3 liter, whereas as you move downstream and along the
- 4 Illinois waterway, there's increased chlorophyll,
- 5 which means there's additional algae and a higher
- 6 food source for the carp.
- 7 MR. ANDES: Thank you.
- MR. ETTINGER: I'm sorry, where does that
- 9 start to pick up?
- THE WITNESS: It's gradual. In Lockport,
- like I said, the average is around six. And then as
- 12 you move downstream, I think it gets progressively
- 13 higher through Peoria, which is the lowest pool that
- we've sampled.
- 15 BY MS. WILLIAMS:
- Q. So do you have an opinion on the
- 17 relevance of that data to any impact on movement of
- 18 Asian carp?
- A. No. Just in reference to your question,
- I don't think that reducing the food source or
- 21 reducing nutrients is going to necessarily produce
- 22 the food -- the food source for Asian carp in the
- 23 CAWS.
- MR. ANDES: Because the algae levels are

- 1 already low?
- THE WITNESS: They're quite low, yeah.
- MR. ETTINGER: Are you a fish biologist? Do
- 4 you consider yourself a fish biologist?
- 5 THE WITNESS: No.
- 6 MR. ETTINGER: Do you consider yourself a
- 7 limnologist?
- 8 THE WITNESS: An aquatic biologist.
- 9 MR. ETTINGER: Thank you.
- MR. ANDES: Can you explain -- is aquatic
- biologist a broader category than a fish biologist?
- THE WITNESS: Yes. I'm not specifically a
- 13 fish biologist, but I do work a lot with fish in my
- 14 day-to-day job.
- 15 BY MS. WILLIAMS:
- Q. So I'm not an aquatic biologist or a fish
- biologist, but I'm getting a little confused by the
- 18 testimony that we had yesterday and today. If you
- 19 conclude that the algae levels are already
- relatively low in the CAWS, does that serve one way
- or another to impact whether Asian carp are going to
- move through the system?
- A. I wouldn't -- I don't know if the food
- source is actually limiting in the CAWS. I'm just

- saying that it is of lower availability in the CAWS.
- Q. Okay.
- MS. WILLIAMS: I'm going to move on. Okay?
- 4 BY MS. WILLIAMS:
- Q. Question three. On page 14 of your
- 6 pre-filed testimony, you state that, quote, "There
- 7 is very little habitat in the CAWS that would be
- 8 considered suitable for potential fish spawning,"
- 9 unquote. A, which CAWS fish species are you
- 10 referring to?
- 11 A. In my testimony, I didn't refer to a
- 12 particular species. I just said there was very
- 13 little habitat in the CAWS in general that was
- 14 suitable for spawning --
- 15 Q. For any --
- 16 A. -- relative --
- 17 Q. For any --
- 18 A. -- to a --
- 19 Q. -- species?
- 20 A. -- natural waterway. Right.
- Q. Do you believe that the fish species
- found in the CAWS do not spawn in the CAWS?
- A. I don't know specifically. We haven't
- done a spawning study in the CAWS selectively trying

- 1 to capture larval or juvenile fish. As I said,
- there's likely limited areas in the CAWS that might
- 3 provide appropriate spawning habitat for a certain
- 4 tolerant species; but it would be a lot of
- 5 largemouth bass, but it doesn't necessarily mean
- 6 that there's suitable adjacencies to nursery
- 7 habitat, which is something that Scudder Mackey
- 8 talked about in his testimony. So there may be
- 9 spawning areas, but in order for that to be a
- sustainable situation for the fish, there would also
- 11 have to be adjacent nursery areas for the fish, and
- 12 I -- I don't know that that -- I don't think that's
- 13 common in the CAWS.
- Q. Do you believe that a relatively small
- amount of spawning habitat can be enough to support
- a population of some species that require such
- 17 habitat?
- A. A relatively small amount relative --
- Q. Well, that's what you -- isn't that your
- testimony, that the CAWS has a relatively small
- 21 amount of spawning habitat?
- A. No, that I used the word relatively.
- 23 But --
- Q. Did you use the word comparatively small?

- Or you said something like that. Maybe I'm --
- 2 A. I think I just said a small amount -- or
- 3 a small amount of spawning habitat --
- Q. Okay. And do you believe a small amount
- of spawning habitat can be enough to support
- 6 population of some fish species that requires it?
- A. I guess that's difficult to answer that
- question because there's a lot of other factors that
- 9 would go into whether or not it would be -- you
- 10 know, a small amount of habitat would be enough for
- a sustainable fish population. Like I said, the
- 12 adjacencies to other habitat and a food -- a quality
- food source for juvenile or larval fish and
- macroinvertebrates would be another one. So I guess
- 15 I'm not really sure I can answer that.
- Q. Do you think that channel catfish are
- spawning in the Sanitary and Ship Canal?
- A. From our electrofishing data, I wouldn't
- 19 have necessarily known that. But it appears from
- 20 the IDNR testimony that they've found
- young-of-the-year, so it was their opinion that
- 22 there could be -- that there was spawning. You
- know, this is just one species. And their
- requirements, as Greg testified, Greg Seegert,

- testified yesterday, they may have pretty minimal
- 2 requirements in terms of -- in terms of a cavity
- under some sort of object. And, you know, they may
- 4 find those bases in the CAWS that would be able to
- 5 spawn.
- MS. TIPSORD: Mr. Harley, you've got a
- 7 follow-up?
- MR. HARLEY: Keith Harley on behalf of the
- 9 Southeast Environmental Task Force. Are you
- familiar with spawning that takes place in Lake
- 11 Calumet with Coho salmon?
- 12 THE WITNESS: No.
- MR. HARLEY: Would you characterize Lake
- Michigan as a high quality habitat for purposes of
- 15 spawning?
- THE WITNESS: I mean, it depends on what fish
- species.
- MR. HARLEY: You haven't distinguished among
- 19 fish species in your -- in your testimony?
- THE WITNESS: Right. In my answer, I guess
- what I'm trying to say with the channel cats is
- 22 among certain intolerant -- or I'm sorry, among
- certain tolerant fish species, there could be a
- limited amount of spawning going on.

- 1 MR. HARLEY: Where?
- THE WITNESS: In the CAWS.
- MR. ETTINGER: I'm sorry --
- 4 MS. WILLIAMS: Can I interrupt a second?
- 5 MR. ETTINGER: Yeah, can I just interrupt
- 6 you? You say "the CAWS," I just want to -- are you
- 7 using -- when you say "the CAWS," you mean the whole
- 8 thing, every -- from the top of the North Shore
- 9 Channel to the -- the entire thing? So when you say
- there's no habitat in the CAWS, you're saying
- there's little or no habitat in the entire system?
- 12 THE WITNESS: I'm saying that there is little
- habitat throughout the system. There's certainly
- areas that have more suitable habitat than others.
- 15 They're more little pockets --
- MR. ETTINGER: I just --
- 17 THE WITNESS: -- as we were talking about.
- MR. ETTINGER: But I just wanted to -- I
- just wanted to clarify what we were saying is the
- 20 CAWS, and that was it.
- MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Go ahead. You can
- 22 finish your answer.
- THE WITNESS: But I guess you have to clarify
- which fish species you're talking about.

- 1 MR. HARLEY: I guess my question is:
- Generally would you refer to that as being a
- 3 suitable habitat for spawning of some species?
- THE WITNESS: Well, a lot of fish species
- 5 will spawn in rivers and then live as adults in
- 6 lakes or feed in lakes, or I'm just not sure of
- 7 that.
- MR. HARLEY: Are you familiar with that
- 9 occurring in the relationship between Lake Michigan
- and the CAWS, that phenomena of fish species which
- 11 are spawning in the CAWS and then would be living as
- 12 adults in the lake?
- THE WITNESS: It's possible. I'm not -- I'm
- 14 not sure.
- MR. HARLEY: As an aquatic biologist, you're
- 16 not familiar with that occurring?
- 17 THE WITNESS: With spawning in the lake -- or
- spawning in rivers and moving specifically into Lake
- 19 Michigan?
- MR. HARLEY: Yeah.
- 21 THE WITNESS: As a fishery biologist, I'm not
- sure that that's occurring within the CAWS in the
- 23 Great Lakes.
- MR. HARLEY: You're not familiar with that?

- 1 Is there a hydrologic connection between Lake
- Michigan and the CAWS?
- THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 4 MR. HARLEY: Thank you.
- 5 MR. ETTINGER: Just to follow-up on this a
- 6 little about the relatively small amount of habit --
- of spawning habitat. I believe yesterday we heard
- from Mr. Seegert that you could have spawning in a
- 9 particular area of the river, and that because fish
- swim, they might fill up a much larger area than
- 11 that. Are you disagreeing with that?
- 12 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, can you repeat your
- 13 question.
- MR. ETTINGER: Well, if we had a few spawning
- areas in the system, would that not be adequate, at
- least as to some species, to bring fish to the
- entire system of that species?
- MR. ANDES: Before she answers, I want to
- raise an issue in terms of this whole line of
- questioning, because we didn't introduce the IDNR
- 21 report. It's not part of Ms. Wasik's testimony to
- refer to the IDNR report, which was first discussed
- for the first time yesterday by another witness. So
- we're not -- we didn't really come here prepared to

- answer detailed questions about the IDNR study. It
- 2 wasn't part of the Asian carp -- it's not -- NOT
- 3 part of the Asian carp issue, and it certainly is
- 4 something that we'll be prepared to talk about in
- 5 detail at the Habitat and Aquatic Hearings when
- 6 those are scheduled.
- 7 MS. WILLIAMS: I don't think anyone is asking
- 8 about that now. I asked one question, and she
- 9 answered it.
- MR. ANDES: Well, there have been a series of
- 11 questions about the spawning issue.
- MS. WILLIAMS: Well, that's been her
- 13 testimony. She -- this is a quote from her
- 14 testimony in question three. You state, "There is
- very little habitat in the CAWS that would be
- 16 considered suitable for potential fish spawning."
- 17 That's what we're asking about, not the IDNR --
- 18 MR. ETTINGER: I -- my --
- MR. ANDES: Well --
- MS. WILLIAMS: -- report.
- MR. ETTINGER: Sorry if you understood my
- question as referring to the IDNR study, I wasn't.
- In fact, to the extent I referred to anything, I
- referred to Mr. Seegert's testimony, which I believe

- said that you don't have to have -- among his
- 2 conclusions or one of -- among his statements is
- 3 that you don't have to have spawning everywhere that
- 4 you'll have fish. And my question is: Do you
- 5 disagree with that?
- 6 MR. ANDES: What particular statement --
- 7 let's be clear about what particular statement
- 9 you're referring to, because I'm not sure you're --
- 9 MR. ETTINGER: Well --
- 10 MR. ANDES: -- characterizing --
- 11 MR. ETTINGER: -- I don't want to
- 12 characterize or mischaracterize Mr. Seegert's
- testimony, but I believe he said that, A, even if
- there isn't spawning in the Upper Dresden Pool, he
- still expects the area to be taken over by carp; and
- 16 furthermore, that he expects that if there is
- spawning in the Brandon Pool, that it will certainly
- have large numbers of carp, although obviously that
- we've heard previously the Brandon Pool constitutes
- 20 a relatively small amount of the total area of the
- 21 Upper Dresden Island Pool.
- So my question is: Are you disagreeing
- with Mr. Seegert that you could have -- you could
- have fish in an area in which there isn't spawning

- immediately nearby?
- THE WITNESS: Well, first of all, no, I don't
- disagree with Mr. Seegert. What he's talking about
- are carp, which are broadcast spawners. I'm talking
- 5 about some limited tolerant species in the CAWS that
- 6 have some limited habitat in the way of the rare
- 5 shallows and hard bottoms, which you don't see a lot
- 8 of in the CAWS. Some of these tolerant species may
- 9 find isolated, limited areas to spawn in the CAWS.
- 10 Whether that spawning is successful, I'm not sure
- whether it's enough to create a sustainable
- 12 population. It's possible for certain small -- or
- for certain tolerant species that it is, but I'm not
- 14 sure.
- MR. ETTINGER: Well, you're not denying that
- there are certain tolerant species there now?
- 17 THE WITNESS: In terms of that are -- that
- are spawning?
- MR. ETTINGER: Well, they're getting there;
- 20 right?
- MR. ANDES: You mean that are present?
- MR. ETTINGER: You're not denying they're
- 23 present?
- THE WITNESS: No, I'm not denying that

- there's a presence of tolerant species in the CAWS.
- MR. ETTINGER: Are they taking the bus, or
- 3 how do you think they're getting there?
- THE WITNESS: Could be some recruitment from
- other areas or, like I said, to the extent that
- 6 these tolerant species -- like your sunfish or
- ⁷ largemouth bass, crappie, they all require or prefer
- 8 shallow areas that have a harder, gravelly bottom to
- 9 nest. And so to the extent that those habitats are
- available in the CAWS, which I think is pretty
- infrequent, as I've testified, there is limited
- 12 spawning there.
- 13 BY MS. WILLIAMS:
- Q. Can I just clarify? You said limited
- spawning, limited habitat, I think, certain limited
- tolerant species. I just want to be clear, channel
- catfish, they're not tolerant in terms of dissolved
- oxygenation, are they?
- 19 A. I think they're moderately tolerant. To
- the extent that they have found young-of-the-year
- 21 catfish, and IDNR has -- IDNR has submitted
- testimony that they believe they're spawning, it
- would appear that the dissolved oxygen requirements
- 24 are just being met at least in the area -- in the

- area that they're discussing where they had the
- 2 rotenone event.
- Q. Do you know what the dissolved oxygen
- 4 levels were during the time of year they were --
- around the rotenone events where they were found?
- A. I'm not sure exactly. I think it was
- December, and I would imagine they were quite high.
- Q. Okay. Thank you. I'll move on to
- 9 question four. You testify on page 14 that, quote,
- "We collected fish on July 23, 2010, in the Lockport
- 11 Pool where rotenone had been applied in December
- 12 2009. Only three fish species were collected
- compared to ten and eight collected in 2007 and 2008
- 14 respectively." Is it your testimony that the
- December 2009 rotenone treatment is the likely cause
- of only three fish species being captured by MWRDGC
- sampling in July 2010?
- MR. ANDES: Before she answers, we have a
- chart that shows the numbers, which we thought would
- 20 be helpful, in graphic form.
- MS. TIPSORD: I've been handed a graph.
- 22 Across the top, "Number of fish species collected at
- Lockport in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal
- during 2001 through 2010." If there's no objection,

- we will mark this as Exhibit 433. Seeing none, it's
- 2 Exhibit 433.
- Oocument marked as IPCB Exhibit
- No. 433 for identification.)
- 5 BY THE WITNESS:
- A. I can't say for sure why we caught three
- 7 species that year, but I think it's a fair, educated
- 8 determination that since we had caught between, I
- 9 think it was, eight and 11 in 2005 through 2009 and
- caught three in 2010, and there was within seven
- 11 months of a large scale, almost six-mile rotenone
- event or fish poisoning event, I think it was an
- educated determination that the reason we only
- 14 caught three fish was due to the rotenone event. I
- don't think it would be expected to recover that
- 16 quickly.
- 17 And that was also backed up by
- discussions with Kelly Baerwaldt of U.S. Army Corps
- of Engineers. They also went out in July in the
- 20 Sanitary and Ship Canal for a telemetry project,
- where they were going to tag common carp to
- 22 determine their movement in that area for -- as part
- of the Asian carp monitoring strategy. And they
- were electrofishing within the entire area, I think,

- 1 between the barrier and the Lockport Lock. And she
- 2 mentioned that with a lot of effort, they were only
- 3 able to catch, I think, six common carp.
- 4 BY MS. WILLIAMS:
- 5 Q. And when did you have this discussion?
- A. Actually, this was during a -- she
- 7 mentioned that at a pre-teleconference to -- a
- 8 monitoring rapid response work group conference that
- 9 was on September 30th, so this would have been
- 10 September 23rd. Her crew was out there in July and
- 11 had a similar -- made a similar conclusion about
- there being very few fish out there when she was
- electrofishing.
- Q. So what's your explanation for why there
- were only a few species in 2001?
- A. I guess there's a lot of different
- 17 reasons; that there's some natural variability year
- to year; when you're using electrofishing, it could
- be due to weather events or rain events; that one of
- 20 the big differences is -- and the reason that I
- didn't include our fish data originally in my
- testimony from 2001 to 2004 was because our
- electrofishing location changed slightly in 2005.
- 24 Basically we used to -- and our convention is to

- 1 shock 400 meters on each side, so a total of
- 2 800 meters at a station. And in 2005, there were
- 3 some barges that were parked on the east side of the
- 4 channel near our Lockport station, and we decided to
- 5 shock 800 meters on the west side, and there's a
- 6 little bit of additional habitat in the way of riff
- 7 raft on that west side, but as it turned out --
- Q. On the west side of where?
- 9 A. The west side of the ship canal at our
- 10 Lockport station.
- 11 Q. Okay.
- A. And as it turned out, this was a better
- location for fish shocking. We were able to get a
- 14 few -- it seemed like we were getting more fish on
- that side. So in the future years, from 2005 until
- present, we just changed our sampling location. So
- we did an 800 meter straight electrofishing on the
- west bank, and I think that has improved our catch.
- 19 So I think that's the reason that in 2001 and 2004
- we may have gotten the low numbers. I don't think
- 21 it's necessarily a good comparison of the 2005
- 22 through 2010.
- Q. Do you think the species that you didn't
- find in 2010 are just gone?

- 1 A. No. Electrofishing, as has been
- 2 mentioned in previous testimony, is -- you know,
- 3 it's not expected to catch every fish that's in the
- 4 waterway. Its efficiency, I think, is -- it's
- 5 reported to be somewhere in the order of four
- 6 percent or four to seven percent. So just because
- you're not catching a fish doesn't mean that it's
- not there, but it speaks to its abundance.
- 9 Q. All right. Thank you. I don't think
- we've asked: Do you have any evidence that the
- 11 rotenone treatments had impact on the Calumet
- 12 system?
- A. The District doesn't have any fish data
- from 2010 in the 2.8 mile region that was where they
- applied rotenone in the Calumet River downstream of
- 16 the Ryan Lock. Our closest station that we monitor
- annually is at Halsted. That's about four miles
- downstream from the end of the rotenone zone, so I
- don't -- I don't have any fish data to --
- Q. Do you have the 2009 to 2010 fish data at
- that lower station beyond the rotenone to compare?
- 22 A. I'm not sure. I don't -- because it's
- four miles downstream, I didn't really see it as a
- good comparison, but I didn't look at that data.

- 1 Q. So you don't know. Okay.
- 2 Question five. Has any of the
- information obtained through your experience with
- the Asian carp rapid response efforts caused you to
- ⁵ question the effectiveness of MWRDGC's ongoing fish
- 6 sampling programs?
- A. No, not at all. I mean, as Greg said
- yesterday, I think it's an apples and oranges
- 9 comparison between the multiagency effort that's
- going on to monitor Asian carp using, you know,
- 11 multiple techniques and commercial fishermen. I
- 12 think the goal of -- you know, as a wastewater
- treatment plant, obviously our main mission is water
- 14 treatment. And then we have a modest budget that
- goes towards our fish monitoring program, which
- 16 the -- the goal of which is to determine relative
- species abundance and diversity over time and over,
- you know, a number of stations throughout the CAWS.
- So I think that our monitoring and our
- fish database has definitely achieved those goals,
- 21 that over -- you know, we have, I think, the most
- extensive database for fish of anyone for the CAWS.
- 23 And I think our cumulative fish species that we've
- caught in the CAWS in the time that we've been

- 1 monitoring is an accurate reflection of species --
- the species that are present in the CAWS and their
- 3 relative abundance.
- So, you know, I think the goals of those
- 5 two projects are extremely different in terms of,
- 6 you know, the reasons that the District monitors
- 7 fish to see how basically our operations may affect
- 8 the CAWS versus the Asian carp monitoring, which,
- 9 you know, they're basically looking to identify the
- 10 presence of a fish that is present at extremely low
- densities, if at all, throughout the CAWS.
- MR. ANDES: So is it accurate to say that
- while the District could pursue a policy that would
- 14 kill all the fish and then count them, that's
- probably not a productive program?
- THE WITNESS: No, I don't think that would be
- reasonable or feasible for us to do that.
- MR. ETTINGER: Why wouldn't it be?
- MR. ANDES: To kill all the fish?
- MR. ETTINGER: You said --
- 21 THE WITNESS: Well --
- MR. ETTINGER: -- it wasn't a reasonable
- program.
- THE WITNESS: Well, we don't --

- 1 MR. ETTINGER: Why wouldn't it be?
- THE WITNESS: -- have millions of dollars a
- year to spend on fish monitoring.
- 4 MR. ETTINGER: You don't? How many -- what
- 5 did you say, how much does it take?
- 6 THE WITNESS: I'm guessing that this Asian
- 7 carp monitoring has been very expensive. I don't
- 8 know exactly what the cost is, but I know that it's
- 9 more than what we spend annually on our fish program
- or possibly more than we spent in decades on our
- 11 fish program.
- MR. ETTINGER: Okay. Thank you.
- MR. ANDES: If we're talking about -- correct
- me if I'm wrong -- the program here and the results
- particularly in terms of the IDNR study was: We'll
- 16 count all the dead fish that have been poisoned due
- to rotenone?
- THE WITNESS: That is one method they've
- used. In addition, they've used -- they've hired
- commercial fishermen. They have contracts with
- 21 commercial fishermen to come up from Southern
- 22 Illinois and do trawling, and they have several
- other netting operations that they're using. And
- they're, you know, out on a weekly basis. So the

- 1 effort is rather extreme for a wastewater treatment
- 2 plant to try to mimic something like that. That
- 3 seems unreasonable.
- MS. TIPSORD: Mr. Harley, do you have a
- 5 question?
- 6 MR. HARLEY: Keith Harley on behalf of the
- 7 Southeast Environmental Task Force.
- The fish monitoring station that you have
- 9 in the Calumet River system --
- 10 THE WITNESS: Right.
- MR. HARLEY: -- you said was located on
- 12 Halsted Street, is that correct?
- 13 THE WITNESS: That is one of our fish
- 14 monitoring locations. It's the one that we sample
- annually in the Little Calumet River.
- MR. HARLEY: And are there other fish
- monitoring stations in the Calumet River system?
- THE WITNESS: Yes.
- MR. HARLEY: Where are those located?
- THE WITNESS: I had a map here. So in the
- 21 Calumet River, the amount there at Ewing and 130th
- 22 Street, 130th Street is an annual location, Ewing is
- once every four years on a rotating basis. The
- amount there in the Little Calumet River at

- 1 Wentworth and 170th, those are the --
- MS. TIPSORD: I'm sorry, Ms. Wasik, I
- 3 didn't --
- 4 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.
- 5 MS. TIPSORD: -- hear that.
- 6 THE WITNESS: Those are in the -- I guess the
- 7 southern portion of the Little Calumet River.
- 8 Halsted --
- 9 MR. HARLEY: Is that -- I'm sorry to
- interrupt, but is that annual monitoring?
- 11 THE WITNESS: No. Those are on a four-year
- 12 basis.
- MR. HARLEY: Okay.
- 14 THE WITNESS: Then Ashland on the Little
- 15 Calumet, as well as Ashland on the Cal Sag.
- MR. HARLEY: How frequently is that
- monitoring done?
- THE WITNESS: Those are on the rotating
- 19 four-year basis. Cicero and the Cal Sag is
- annually. Route 83 and the Cal Sag Channel is on a
- 21 four-year rotating basis. I believe that's all that
- we do in the CAWS portion of the Calumet system.
- MR. HARLEY: Thank you.
- MR. ANDES: Just one follow-up on that. Is

- there any other public agency that's out there doing
- 2 this kind of monitoring?
- THE WITNESS: On an annual basis, I believe
- 4 the Water Reclamation District prior to the Asian
- 5 carp monitoring was the only one regularly
- 6 monitoring in the CAWS.
- 7 BY MS. WILLIAMS:
- Q. The only agency?
- 9 A. I believe so.
- MR. ANDES: So no state agencies?
- 11 THE WITNESS: Not on a -- I think that the
- DNR has rotational, you know, monitoring for fish
- 13 throughout the state. So they may be in the CAWS
- 14 from time to time, but it's not as extensive as our
- monitoring.
- 16 BY MS. WILLIAMS:
- Q. And Midwest Generation also has an
- extensive monitoring program that's gone on for some
- 19 time, correct?
- 20 A. Not throughout the CAWS, but in the Lower
- 21 Ship Canal, I believe.
- Q. Question six refers to the quote on page
- 23 15 of your testimony. Quote, "These barriers" -- I
- suppose by "these barriers," you're referring to the

- 1 current electrical barriers -- "limit the source of
- fish into the CAWS, which limits the ability of the
- 3 CAWS to support a growing fish community."
- And I'd like to turn to D. "Is it your
- opinion that these invasive species barriers will
- 6 impact other parts of the CAWS outside the CSSC?
- 7 Explain the basis for your opinion."
- 8 A. Well, I think if you think of the CAWS as
- ⁹ a system, there's not necessarily barriers within
- 10 the CAWS. So over time I would think that, you
- 11 know, even though these are in the ship canal, that
- 12 that effects the source of fish for the entire
- 13 system.
- Q. Are there other sources of fish for the
- 15 system besides coming up the CSSC?
- 16 A. Yes.
- Q. And I'll also ask B. "Have the fisheries
- management agencies ever anticipated in the Asian
- 19 carp rapid response activities expressed a
- 20 commitment to restocking native species?"
- 21 A. I've heard it discussed in the past, but
- I don't know of any schedule at this point to
- 23 restock.
- MR. ANDES: I just want to clarify. No one's

- suggesting we kill all the fish so then they could
- be restocked, correct?
- MS. WILLIAMS: Are you asking me a question,
- Fred, or are you testifying, what, are you
- 5 objecting?
- 6 MR. ANDES: No, I'm just trying to --
- 7 MS. WILLIAMS: You said that you're
- 8 clarifying. I don't -- there's no question to
- 9 clarify.
- MR. ANDES: I think there was.
- 11 BY THE WITNESS:
- A. At this time while there is still
- likelihood or possibility of rotenone events, I
- don't believe they'll be restocking.
- 15 BY MS. WILLIAMS:
- Q. Do you know anything about the future
- plans for rotenone events?
- 18 A. They have -- I've been on a
- teleconference with the monitoring and rapid
- 20 response work group for the AR -- the ACRCC, and
- right now the only plan for rotenone that is
- scheduled is during maintenance of one of the
- barriers, they're planning on using rotenone as a
- deterrent between barriers 2-A and 2-B. But the

- other kinds of rotenone, you know, it would be on an
- 2 as-needed basis. So basically there's triggers
- 3 identified, and they evaluate their EDNA data, as
- 4 well as their monitoring data, and then at any time
- 5 they could decide to rotenone any part of the CAWS.
- Q. Have you heard that they're considering
- 7 no longer rotenoning based on EDNA sampling?
- 8 A. I have heard that the original trigger
- 9 has been adjusted. I think the Little Calumet
- 10 rotenone event may have been triggered by the three
- 11 positive EDNA samples. And since then, they
- 12 require -- basically instead of just using EDNA as a
- trigger, they would like to have additional
- evidence. And in certain areas where they believe
- traditional fish monitoring, like electrofishing and
- netting, to be quite efficient, like in the North
- 17 Shore Channel where it's a little bit shallower,
- they will use extensive monitoring instead of
- 19 rotenone. But that's not to say if they don't catch
- an individual somewhere in the North Shore Channel
- or the North Branch that they won't rotenone, you
- know, from wherever they catch it to the lake. You
- just don't know. That's very uncertain.
- MS. FRANZETTI: If I can just ask a follow-up

- on the restocking question. With respect to native
- fish, is the ability to restock them at all affected
- 3 by their availability?
- 4 THE WITNESS: Yes. And then you could also
- 5 say that restocking isn't necessarily going to be --
- 6 mimic what would naturally be there, what's
- 7 naturally in the CAWS. But restocking it wouldn't
- 8 necessarily be a viable option.
- 9 MS. FRANZETTI: And do I understand
- 10 correctly, then, that not all native species that
- 11 you're trying to restock you can obtain on the
- commercial market, so to speak, in order --
- 13 THE WITNESS: Right.
- MS. FRANZETTI: -- to do the restocking, is
- 15 that right?
- THE WITNESS: Right. I mean, we are likely
- to restock, I think, game fish. But in terms of,
- you know, a whole fish community of various species,
- 19 I find it doubtful they would be able to stock all
- of the species that would be knocked out by
- 21 rotenone.
- MR. ETTINGER: Well, why be so, you know,
- 23 pro-abate? I mean, why can't we stock game fish
- that aren't native?

- THE WITNESS: You can. They do it in the
- 2 Great Lakes.
- MR. ETTINGER: They sure do.
- MS. TIPSORD: Ms. Wasik, for the record,
- 5 could you explain what "EDNA" is? I think it's in
- 6 the written testimony somewhere, but just for
- 7 purposes of the transcript.
- 8 THE WITNESS: Okay. It's environmental DNA.
- 9 So they're using water samples instead of actual --
- instead of actually finding an Asian carp, they're
- using water samples to identify the basically
- 12 presence of DNA in that part of the waterway. And
- they use it as a tool to say that they believe it's
- likely if there's a positive EDNA hit or a certain
- ratio of positive EDNA hits that there may be
- presence of silver or bighead carp.
- MS. TIPSORD: Thank you.
- 18 BY MS. WILLIAMS:
- Q. Question seven. On page 15 of your
- 20 pre-filed testimony, you also state that, quote,
- "Without diversion at the Wilmette Pumping Station,
- the 4.5 mile stretch between Wilmette and the North
- 23 Side WRP would be completely stagnant except for
- flow from stormwater and combined sewer overflows."

- 1 Do all possible ways of moving water from Lake
- 2 Michigan into the CAWS involve an equal risk of
- 3 Asian carps getting into Lake Michigan? Why or why
- 4 not?
- 5 A. Technically not. You could put screens
- on the gates or you could pump water and then that
- 7 there would be a lower risk of Asian carp getting
- 8 into the water system.
- 9 Q. Subpart B asks to describe the methods
- 10 being investigated that would allow diversion of
- 11 Lake Michigan water into the CAWS without allowing
- passage of Asian carp. Is that your answer to that?
- A. Well, grates and screens have been
- explored, but they cannot be put on all the gates or
- else there would be a hazard of flooding in the
- 16 Chicago area during excessive rain events when water
- 17 from the CAWS needs to be reversed into Lake
- 18 Michigan. The grates would blind, and then they
- would inhibit the huge volume of water from exiting
- through to Lake Michigan. And that's even more
- 21 critical at Wilmette to have this unimpeded flow,
- because there's no lock there that you can open in
- 23 an emergency.
- Eventually they're planning on installing

- 1 bar screens over existing tunnels that are at
- Wilmette, so that they can water into the CAWS using
- gravity. And this is -- or they could pump through
- 4 screen gates. And this is for award in spring of
- 5 2011 they are going to be able to construct those
- 6 bar screens. So that's the current schedule.
- 7. Q. Will MWRDGC be required to phase out
- 8 these discretionary diversions at the Wilmette
- 9 Pumping Station regardless of the outcome of the
- 10 long-term invasive species control measures
- 11 selected?
- 12 A. No. My understanding is that diversions
- aren't being phased out but reduced.
- Q. Will these reductions also result in
- 15 stagnation?
- 16 A. The reductions are overall for the
- system, so we would be able to use our discretion in
- terms of where we'd reduce diversion. So it's
- 19 possible that at Wilmette we wouldn't reduce
- diversion and rather it'd be done at different
- 21 controlled structures. We have an overall -- right
- now, by 2015, they are supposed to reduce diversion
- from 305 to 136 cfs. But that reduction could occur
- 24 at any controlled structure, not necessarily at

- 1 Wilmette.
- Q. Are there --
- 3 MR. ETTINGER: I'm a --
- 4 MS. WILLIAMS: Go ahead.
- 5 MR. ETTINGER: I'm a little confused.
- 6 Required by what? Who is causing these reductions?
- 7 Is this -- did you lose your case on the Asian carp?
- 8 What -- what -- who --
- 9 THE WITNESS: No. Based on TARP becoming
- online and the reservoirs coming online, there was a
- 11 schedule to reduce diversion. The thinking as -- as
- 12 the reservoirs became more effective or had more
- capacity, there would be less need for the
- 14 diversion.
- MR. ETTINGER: Okay. So what -- what's
- 16 requiring that; your NPGS permit, something that you
- promised the Federal Government in exchange for
- getting money for TARP, or what is -- what's causing
- 19 the reduction?
- MR. ANDES: Let me clarify that point.
- 21 (WHEREUPON, there was a conference
- between the witness and counsel.)
- 23 BY THE WITNESS:
- A. Okay. I'm sorry about that. I wasn't

- 1 sure. It's an existing consent decree. We can
- provide further --
- MR. ETTINGER: It's an existing consent
- decree? It doesn't relate to the carp?
- 5 THE WITNESS: Oh, no.
- 6 MR. ETTINGER: Okay. And so this reduction
- in diversions has been being planned for how long?
- 8 THE WITNESS: I'm not sure. I can find out.
- 9 I'm not sure.
- MR. ETTINGER: Okay. Is it the intention of
- 11 the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to allow
- malarial conditions and a visible public nuisance in
- the waters of the CAWS?
- 14 THE WITNESS: No. As I said --
- MR. ETTINGER: Is that part of the plan --
- 16 THE WITNESS: No. As I --
- MR. ETTINGER: -- the consent decree?
- THE WITNESS: As I said, the diversion has to
- 19 be reduced overall, not necessarily at Wilmette. So
- it's possible that at Wilmette, we would not change
- the diversion position for this particular
- 22 requirement.
- MR. ETTINGER: So --
- THE WITNESS: The conditions that you're

- talking about, I believe, refer to the preliminary
- 2 injunction.
- MR. ETTINGER: I'm just referring to your
- 4 testimony, and you talk a lot about reduction and
- 5 diversions, and I'm trying to relate the reduction
- 6 and diversions to something to do with the carp.
- 7 And so what does it have to do with the carp?
- 8 THE WITNESS: There was a preliminary
- 9 injunction, and this was -- I was referring to the
- 10 Federal Court case that's pending now against the
- 11 District and the Army Corps of Engineers. There
- were several requirements that are outlined in my
- testimony through the preliminary injunction.
- MR. ETTINGER: Is it your understanding that
- the preliminary injunction was granted or denied?
- THE WITNESS: At this point, neither. I'm
- sorry, I'm not talking about the Supreme Court case,
- 18 I'm talking about the Federal Court case in the
- 19 Illinois District Court.
- MR. ETTINGER: The District Court has not
- 21 ruled on the preliminary injunction --
- 22 THE WITNESS: Right.
- MR. ETTINGER: -- motion. But you feel that
- 24 it may grant the preliminary injunction motion, and

- these are the -- these malarial conditions are the
- 2 likely result of the Board granting the preliminary
- 3 injunction motion?
- 4 (WHEREUPON, there was a conference
- between the witness and counsel.)
- THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, you were just asking
- 7 if it's possible that they could grant the
- 8 preliminary injunction --
- 9 MR. ETTINGER: No, I'm just -- you're talking
- about all sorts of dire things that will happen as a
- 11 result of the diversion. I'm just trying to see how
- 12 it will relate --
- MR. ANDES: So let me clarify. So is it your
- 14 testimony that if the District Court were to grant
- the preliminary injunction, the conditions you've
- described in your testimony could happen?
- 17 THE WITNESS: It's possible, yes, depending
- on what sort of relief is granted.
- MR. ETTINGER: Is it possible that the Water
- 20 Reclamation District would then allow mosquitoes and
- 21 a breeding ground for mosquitoes and a visible
- public nuisance in the North Shore Channel as a
- result of the injunction being granted?
- THE WITNESS: If we're forced to stop

- diversion, there will be a stagnant area of waterway
- between the lake and our water reclamation plant.
- 3 You know, if that -- if that is an immediate order,
- 4 obviously we wouldn't be able to do something about
- 5 it necessarily right away.
- 6 MR. ETTINGER: Oh, okay. Well, I live up
- 7 there now, and I can tell you that it's kind of
- 8 stagnant a lot of the time already. Okay. Thanks.
- 9 I think I understand. I -- okay. I think I
- understand how the diversion fits or doesn't fit.
- 11 Thank you.
- MR. ANDES: So just to clarify for a minute,
- because I want to make sure we understand what
- 14 you're saying about the North Shore Channel, so if
- the injunction were granted and it forced the
- 16 District to reduce or eliminate diversions at
- Wilmette, you're talking about the conditions that
- would result in the North Shore Channel because
- there would be no water?
- THE WITNESS: Right.
- MR. ANDES: Okay. And do you know of any
- options the District would have since it would be
- prohibited from moving water into there?
- THE WITNESS: That's my point. I don't think

- 1 that we could do something immediately to avoid it.
- 2 MR. ETTINGER: Not immediately.
- 3 MR. ANDES: Well --
- 4 MR. ETTINGER: Right.
- MR. ANDES: Well, as long as that injunction
- 6 lasts, there's nothing you could do to avoid it;
- 7 correct?
- 8 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 9 MR. ETTINGER: Well, has the District, to
- 10 your knowledge, ever studied pumping water up to the
- top of the channel and letting it flow down?
- 12 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- MR. ETTINGER: They have?
- 14 THE WITNESS: We don't have any design for
- that or contract for that, so it would -- it would
- 16 likely take a few years to do so.
- MR. ETTINGER: Okay. Thank you.
- MR. ANDES: It'd also require various permits
- to be granted?
- THE WITNESS: Yes.
- MR. ETTINGER: Apparently anything can happen
- 22 to stop carp immediately.
- 23 BY MS. WILLIAMS:
- Q. So is it your position, Ms. Wasik, that

- 1 based on the consent decree requiring reduction and
- diversions to 136 cfs, will that require the
- 3 District to do any supplemental erosion or flow
- 4 augmentation to prevent stagnate -- these stagnant
- 5 conditions anywhere in the system?
- A. Like I said, because the reduction
- 7 doesn't have to occur at Wilmette, we can keep --
- 8 it's -- there's a potential that we could keep the
- 9 diversion at the level it is now at Wilmette --
- Q. And no where --
- 11 A. -- but the existing --
- Q. -- throughout --
- A. -- conditions would --
- 14 Q. Throughout the system, though, you won't
- 15 have to -- you won't have any stagnant conditions
- 16 elsewhere as a result of -- that was my question
- here.
- 18 If you continue at Wilmette and use your
- whole 136 to keep that from getting stagnant, will
- there be places elsewhere in the system that will
- be -- like bubbly creeks or where -- I mean, I don't
- 22 know where. I can't -- the main stem, what will
- 23 happen at the main stem? I don't -- I don't know.
- 24 Anywhere in the system I'm just asking.

- A. My understanding is that there wouldn't
- 2 be stagnant conditions in the system.
- Q. Okay.
- 4 A. Bubbly -- I mean, bubbly creek is a
- 5 separate issue.
- 6 Q. Separate issue. But the main stem will
- be fine? If you focus all your diversions in the
- North Shore Channel, the main stem will not
- 9 stagnate?
- MR. ANDES: Wait, wait. I think that's
- 11 a separate -- you said if you focus all the
- diversions on the North Shore Channel, then the main
- stem wouldn't stagnate, is that --
- MS. WILLIAMS: That was my -- yeah, I mean,
- if it's a stupid question, I'm sorry, but that's my
- question. I don't know the answer.
- 17 BY THE WITNESS:
- A. No, I mean, I think that it will be up to
- our M&O department, our maintenance operations, how
- diversion will decrease. And as I mentioned before,
- 21 it is based on progression of TARPs and reservoirs,
- so I'm not even sure exactly when this is likely to
- happen, but the thinking is by the time they are
- reducing the diversion, there will be -- the

- 1 conditions will be -- have been improved by TARP.
- Q. Thank you.
- MR. ETTINGER: This raises a question. And
- 4 the next -- or one of the sentences on page 16,
- 5 "Stagnant septic conditions would also dominate in
- 6 the 1.5 mile stretch of the Chicago River mainstream
- 7 without flow from the lake through the Chicago River
- 8 controlling works." That's what you fear will
- 9 happen if the preliminary injunction is granted
- 10 or --
- 11 THE WITNESS: That will --
- MR. ETTINGER: -- what will happen as a
- 13 result of the diversion controls that were being put
- in independently?
- THE WITNESS: No, that would not be as a
- result of diversion controls. That would be if
- there was an immediate preliminary injunction
- granted that -- if that stopped diversion.
- MR. ETTINGER: So we'll have malarial
- 20 conditions in downtown Chicago as a result of this?
- MR. ANDES: I don't think the word "malarial"
- 22 was used in her --
- MR. ETTINGER: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry.
- 24 Breeding ground for mosquitoes and a visible public

- 1 nuisance in the main stem --
- MR. ANDES: That's what her testimony says.
- MR. ETTINGER: Okay. Thank you. And that's
- 4 what you -- that's what the Metropolitan Water
- 5 Reclamation --
- 6 THE WITNESS: Well, if you --
- MR. ETTINGER: -- District would put up with
- 8 if they got the injunction?
- 9 THE WITNESS: If you look at my testimony,
- you can see exactly what is laid out in the
- 11 preliminary injunction. I think it's fair to say
- that we would appeal if the preliminary injunction
- was granted.
- MR. ETTINGER: So we don't need to start
- evacuating the Board offices downtown? Thank you.
- 16 THE WITNESS: Okay.
- 17 BY MS. WILLIAMS:
- Q. I think we've covered nine. Question
- ten. You state on page 15 that, quote, "I have
- personally removed both dead and injured fish from
- trammel nets that were set for only 24 hours in the
- 22 CAWS." Which species of fish did you personally
- remove from these nets?
- A. Well, during 2003 through 2005, the

- 1 District was part of a multiagency rotational
- 2 monitoring for Asian carp in Lockport and Brandon
- Road Pools. And at that time we set trammel and
- 4 mini fyke nets. I was referring to trammel nets,
- 5 which can do a lot of damage to fish. And I looked
- 6 back at our records, and common carps were the only
- 7 fish that we had caught in those trammel nets during
- 8 those three years. They had such injuries as, you
- 9 know, scales that were damaged or removed, the
- 10 hemorrhages or -- damaged their eyes and that sort
- of thing from trying to get untangled from the nets.
- 12 Q. Were they dead?
- A. We did have some dead fish. Others were
- 14 just -- appeared injured or stressed. But you can
- see how that can be a -- how nets can be stressful
- 16 for fish as they're trying to escape.
- Q. Has the District ever found sauger in the
- 18 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal?
- 19 A. Yes. I couldn't say -- or in the Ship
- 20 Canal, I'm not sure. I know they've found them --
- 21 that we found them in the CAWS. I'd have to check
- our records to see where. They're found quite
- 23 rarely in our fish collection.
- MS. WILLIAMS: I don't have anything further.

- MS. TIPSORD: Then let's go ahead to ELPC.
- 2 EXAMINATION
- 3 BY MS. DEXTER:
- 4 Q. I'm Jessica Dexter for ELPC. I think
- we've covered most of what's on here, but I'm going
- to ask you some questions, too. In about what
- 7 percentage of the CAWS has rotenone or another
- 8 poison been placed for Asian carp?
- 9 A. Almost 11 percent.
- 10 Q. Has the Metropolitan Water Reclamation
- 11 District ever studied how fluid that's discharge
- 12 from the sewage treatment plants are effecting
- growth or population of bighead or silver carp in
- downstream waters?
- 15 A. No.
- MS. DEXTER: Thank you.
- MS. TIPSORD: All right. Let's take a short
- break, so we can readjust, and we'll move on to
- 19 Midwest Generation.
- 20 (WHEREUPON, a recess was had from
- 10:18 a.m. to 10:33 a.m.)
- MS. TIPSORD: We're ready to begin with
- 23 Midwest Generation's questions.
- MS. FRANZETTI: Good morning. My name is

- 1 Susan Franzetti. I'm counsel for Midwest
- 2 Generation.
- 3 EXAMINATION
- 4 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- ⁵ Q. Ms. Wasik, let me start with question
- 6 number one. On pages eight and 14 in your testimony
- 7 regarding the December 2009 rotenone application in
- 8 Lockport Pool below the electric barriers. Given
- 9 the electric barriers located at the upper end of
- 10 the application zone and the locks located at the
- lower end, do these conditions make it more
- difficult for the fish population to recover in this
- area? And if so, please explain why.
- A. Yes, it's more difficult because the
- recruitment of fish is -- there's no recruitment of
- 16 fish from above the barrier since the barrier is
- 17 affected from both upstream and downstream. And
- then the lock, while it doesn't stop fish from
- moving, it does impede their -- I think there is
- 20 progress.
- Q. Moving to question 1-A. On page 14 of
- your testimony, you reference certain 2010 fish
- 23 survey efforts that showed significant reductions in
- the fish population. You note that during the

- 1 District's July 2010 fish survey at Lockport, only
- three fish species were collected compared to ten
- and eight fish species in 2007 and 2008. What were
- 4 the three fish species that were collected?
- 5 A. Gizzard shad, green sunfish and
- 6 largemouth bass.
- Q. In addition to the number of species
- being significantly reduced, did it appear that the
- 9 number of fish for those three fish species that
- you've just named that were collected were all also
- 11 reduced?
- 12 A. It looks like gizzard shad and green
- sunfish were comparable. There were fewer
- largemouth bass collected than in past years, but it
- looks like it's within the natural variation.
- Q. Okay. Moving to question 1-B, is it
- 17 likely that it will take a long time, months or
- years even, before the fish population in this area
- 19 recovers?
- A. Yes, probably.
- Q. Moving to question two. On page ten of
- your testimony, you indicate that one of the
- 23 short-term strategies recommended by the ACRCC will
- be to, quote, "concentrate and confine," end quote,

- 1 Asian carp in areas that would be conducive to
- 2 targeted removal by the use of fish toxicants and
- 3 netting techniques. Can you explain more
- 4 specifically what activities are included in this
- 5 short-term strategy?
- A. Well, the Army Corps of Engineers uses
- 7 the military language "seek and destroy." For this
- 8 technique, they're going to be using EDNA as a tool
- 9 to determine whether or not they believe Asian carp
- to be present in certain areas; for instance, warm
- 11 water discharges, water reclamation plant outfalls,
- marina basins, tailwaters and locks and dams and
- barge splits, et cetera, I think that they expect to
- 14 find Asian carp.
- And then if there's a positive hit,
- they'll try to concentrate and confine the fish
- 17 presumably rounding them up through electroshocking
- or herding them, as we talked about yesterday, and
- then they'll be herded into an area where they're
- 20 more susceptible to toxicants like rotenone being
- 21 applied or netting techniques.
- Q. And the netting, when you say "netting
- techniques" in that context, that's capturing
- 24 them --

- 1 A. Right.
- Q. -- removing them from the waterway?
- 3 A. Right.
- Q. Okay. Does the use of -- do you agree
- 5 that the use of fish toxicants and netting
- 6 techniques does have adverse impacts on native fish?
- 7 A. Yes. I mean, clearly if they use a fish
- 8 toxicant, it kills all the fish, it's not Asian carp
- 9 specific. And then netting is stressful to native
- 10 populations, as well. I mean, they may allow native
- 11 survivors if they remove them from the net, but I
- mean, they'll still be stressed.
- Q. Moving to question three. On page 11 of
- your testimony, you refer to technologies that will
- 15 herd Asian carp and reduce their population. Are
- 16 you referring -- I'm going to change this a little
- bit just in case your last answer didn't cover it.
- With respect to the herding technologies
- that are going to be used to reduce the Asian carp
- 20 populations, were you describing those in your
- 21 answer to my question two?
- 22 A. Yeah, that would be a similar answer, the
- confined and concentrate option that I just talked
- about.

- 1 Q. And you do agree that the effect of this
- thinning of the herd will be adverse, as well, on
- 3 other species of fish?
- A. Yeah, just as we discussed previously.
- Q. Moving to question four. On page 11 of
- 6 your testimony, you indicate that the ACRCC is
- 7 investigating seismic waves to, quote, "eradicate
- 8 Asian carp," end quote, and physical methods are
- being explored, quote, "to disrupt Asian carp
- spawning and egg viability," end quote. What are
- the likelihood that these activities if they prove
- to be successful will also adversely effect other
- species of fish?
- A. Well, while the researchers are going to
- try to find and identify sound wave frequencies that
- are best suited to deter various ages of Asian carp,
- it's very likely that the sound waves that they find
- are also going to have a negative impact on native
- 19 fish species. Same with using sonication to disrupt
- 20 Asian carp eggs. If there were any fish eggs from a
- 21 native species in the CAWS, then it would also
- 22 potentially negatively impact them.
- Q. Moving to question five. On page 14 of
- your testimony, you state, quote, "The unprecedented

- amount of monitoring activities currently taking
- 2 place in the CAWS are likely to take a toll on the
- 3 resident fish population," end quote. Given that
- 4 annual fish monitoring has gone on in the past in
- 5 the CAWS, how is the current monitoring
- 6 unprecedented?
- A. Well, the District's current monitoring
- in the CAWS, as I mentioned, is on a four-year
- 9 rotational basis except for -- I think it's eight
- stations in the CAWS that we monitor annually. And
- the kind of monitoring that we're talking about
- going on now, the multiagency effort is -- every
- week, there's some kind of sampling going on in the
- 14 CAWS. There's five fixed stations that they're --
- that they're monitoring every other week, and then
- there's also some sampling that they -- just
- continuous electrofishing that they're doing along
- the banks of the entire CAWS basically over time.
- 19 Q. Okay.
- A. And then, of course, there's commercial
- fishermen coming up and doing trawling efforts and
- other netting techniques. So it's just -- the
- effort is incredibly higher than it has been in the
- 24 past.

- Q. What is the basis of your opinion that
- this unprecedented amount in monitoring activities
- 3 will likely take a toll on the resident fish
- 4 population?
- 5 A. Well, I cited a USGS, or U.S. Geological
- 6 Survey, publication in my testimony that talks about
- 7 the effects of electrofishing, the health indicator
- 8 of fish and just my personal knowledge from being in
- 9 the field and seeing how netting operations will
- 10 affect fish, as well as electrofishing, and I think
- that it's obvious that that extensive amount of
- monitoring would stress the population.
- Q. Moving on to 5-C. At present, has any
- date been set by which these monitoring efforts will
- 15 cease?
- A. Not that I know of. I know that they're
- scaling back the monitoring for the winter. I think
- that they'll be kind of targeting warm water areas
- and warm water discharges during the winter. But
- from the recent teleconference on September 30th
- that I mentioned with the monitoring rapid response
- work group of the ACRCC, they plan on resuming the
- 23 monitoring to the same level in the spring and March
- 24 of 2011.

- 1 Q. Moving to question six. On page 15 of
- your testimony, you mention that the electrical
- 3 barriers in the ABS system will cut off the CAWS
- from downstream native fish populations. Could you
- 5 explain what downstream native fish populations you
- 6 are referring to?
- 7 A. Well, granted, not a lot of -- not all of
- 8 the riverine fish species can tolerate the physical
- 9 habitat conditions in the CAWS. But there's a --
- the Des Plaines River and the Illinois River are
- 11 probably a source of some of the tolerant fish
- 12 species that move into the CAWS and, you know, the
- sunfish, largemouth bass, channel catfish, suckers,
- 14 and maybe some of the species that are sort of
- rarely caught in the CAWS, like walleye or sauger.
- But, yes, having a barrier that cuts off the CAWS
- 17 from the typical riverine fish species that would be
- moving upstream, that would come into Des Plaines,
- would have a negative impact on aquatic life in the
- 20 CAWS, because then there'd be no source for some of
- 21 these fish in the CAWS.
- MR. ETTINGER: Excuse me. When was the
- electrical barrier put in, or is this -- hasn't
- there been an electrical barrier there?

- 1 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- MR. ETTINGER: Are you suggesting that all of
- 3 these fish that we found in the CAWS got past that
- 4 electrical barrier, as well as the carp?
- 5 THE WITNESS: No. In my testimony, I'm just
- 6 saying that it slows the recruitment of fish because
- ⁷ of the barrier.
- MR. ETTINGER: So the barrier's been in place
- 9 since 2002, is that -- am I correct?
- 10 THE WITNESS: I think Barrier 1 has been
- 11 since 2002, yeah.
- MR. ETTINGER: So unless they're all
- getting -- a whole lot of fish are getting through,
- 14 can't we kind of assume that what's there is
- probably getting there from sources other than
- downstream since 2002?
- THE WITNESS: I'm just trying to remember the
- specific question. Well, the -- I mean, it's true
- that the barrier has been in effect since 2002. And
- I think that that is a negative impact on the
- 21 aquatic life usually in the CAWS. Just it reduces
- the source of fish.
- 23 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- Q. So I mean, are you saying that if we're

- 1 looking at what the fish community is and/or can be
- in the CAWS, we really should be looking at data
- 3 that's post 2002 when the electric barrier started
- 4 as being more relevant?
- 5 A. That seems that that would be advisable.
- 6 MR. ETTINGER: So for once we agree here,
- 7 that basically unless the electric barrier is
- 8 extremely leaky, what we've seen from 2002 is what
- 9 we get vis-à-vis the barrier?
- MR. ANDES: Well, let me --
- 11 THE WITNESS: To the extent of the Des
- 12 Plaines River being the source, yes.
- MR. ETTINGER: Thank you.
- MR. ANDES: Let me clarify. We're talking
- about -- when we're talking about a barrier, let's
- 16 clarify what we're talking about. One issue is what
- impact the barrier operations to date have had on
- 18 the fish population. But if I understand your
- 19 testimony correctly, you were speaking about the
- future actions, the actions that are being
- 21 contemplated through the coordinating committee,
- which would further the barrier efforts and the
- impact that would have; am I right?
- 24 THE WITNESS: Right.

- 1 MR. ANDES: Because the barrier has
- apparently not been fully effective, and we're
- 3 talking about upgrading and strengthening?
- 4 THE WITNESS: I wouldn't say that the barrier
- 5 hasn't been fully effective. But they are -- they
- 6 have changed operations over the years.
- 7 MR. ANDES: And further changes are being
- 8 contemplated?
- 9 THE WITNESS: Yes. And, of course, there's
- additional barriers, as well, now in addition to
- just Barrier 1.
- MR. ETTINGER: I think we agree that it's
- been somewhat leaky, we don't -- but we -- but you
- do -- you don't believe that there's been massive
- migration through the barrier that's been in place
- 16 since 2002?
- 17 THE WITNESS: No, I don't think so.
- MR. ETTINGER: Thank you.
- 19 BY MS. FRANZETTI:
- Q. Question seven. Is it true that most of
- 21 the actions recommended by the ACRCC to be
- implemented in the UAA waters to control or prevent
- the migration of Asian carp will also kill or
- otherwise harm resident fish populations in the CAWS

- 1 and the Lower Des Plaines River?
- A. I think that's a fair assessment, that
- many of the options they're looking at would equally
- 4 harm native fish populations. I think they are
- 5 looking into trying to find Asian carp specific
- 6 methods, but to date, that hasn't been -- that
- 7 hasn't been successful, and I think that may be
- 8 unlikely.
- 9 Q. And the last question. Given that the
- District is a party to the pending Federal District
- 11 Court litigation initiated by certain of the Great
- 12 Lakes states, have there been -- your pre-filed
- testimony gave us a brief overview of the status of
- 14 that litigation. Since your pre-filed testimony on
- October 8th to today, have there been any further
- developments in that litigation that may be worth
- informing the Board and us interested parties of?
- A. All of the arguments have been heard and
- 19 final arguments are finished, so basically the judge
- 20 could decide on the preliminary injunction at any
- time. I've heard that it's likely to be this year.
- MS. FRANZETTI: I have no further questions.
- MS. TIPSORD: Any other questions?
- MR. ETTINGER: I just had a couple of

- follow-ups. Ms. Franzetti asked you how long the
- 2 fish take to recover after the rotenoning in the --
- 3 I guess the Lower CAWS. Below the rotenone or above
- 4 the rotenone that you were talking about that you
- 5 looked at?
- 6 THE WITNESS: The particular -- I think her
- question was referring to below the barrier and
- 8 above Lockport Lock where the rotenone zone was. So
- 9 the station that I referred to is right near the
- 10 Lockport Lock in the Ship Canal where we collect
- 11 fish and --
- MR. ETTINGER: And how did the fish recover
- 13 at all?
- 14 THE WITNESS: How did they recover at all?
- 15 Like where did the --
- MR. ETTINGER: Yeah, where -- what -- why do
- you think there are fish there at all?
- 18 THE WITNESS: They can move in through the
- 19 Lock.
- MR. ETTINGER: Through the Lock from?
- THE WITNESS: Through Lockport Lock.
- MR. ETTINGER: Through the Lockport Lock from
- 23 the Lower Des Plaines --
- THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.

and I actually wrote O'Brien at the prehearing

24

- conference the other day, so I'm sorry. Is it
- T-e-r-i?
- MR. GERARD: Yes.
- MS. TIPSORD: D-o-y-1-e?
- 5 MR. GERARD: Yes.
- 6 MS. TIPSORD: All right. I will have John
- 7 move that to a public comment.
- And then with that, gentlemen, I'll have
- 9 you each sworn in, and then we'll have you introduce
- yourselves. And then if you'll give me a copy of
- 11 your testimony, we'll enter it and mark them as
- 12 referred.
- And also, Mr. Kindra, I just wanted to
- thank you for rearranging your schedule today.
- 15 (WHEREUPON, the witnesses were duly
- sworn.)
- MS. TIPSORD: And if you could introduce
- 18 yourselves.
- DARREN MELVIN,
- JOHN KINDRA,
- 21 DELBERT WILKINS,
- called as witnesses herein, having been first duly
- sworn, were examined and testified as follows:
- MR. MELVIN: Darren Melvin with Hanson

- 1 Material Service. I'm also representing the
- 2 American Waterway Operators.
- MR. KINDRA: John Kindra. I'm the owner of
- 4 Kindra Lake Towing. I'm also the president of the
- 5 Illinois River Carriage Association. Today I'm just
- 6 representing my company.
- 7 MR. WILKINS: I'm Del Wilkins with Canal
- 8 Barge Company. I'm also representing AWO.
- 9 MS. TIPSORD: And do we have copies of their
- 10 pre-filed testimony? Wonderful. Thank you. Since
- 11 Mr. Melvin got here first, if there's no objection,
- we will mark Mr. --
- MS. WILLIAMS: Yes.
- MS. TIPSORD: -- Melvin's testimony as
- 15 Exhibit 434.
- MS. WILLIAMS: I would like to raise an
- objection at this time, Madam Hearing Officer. As
- 18 you know, the Agency object -- filed an objection to
- 19 the entrance of the testimony, which was denied. In
- 20 addition to the discussion of procedural issues,
- which was addressed in Hearing Officer's order. We
- did raise the question about the fact that much of
- the testimony is not relevant to sub dockets C and
- 24 D.

- I guess at this time I would solicit a
- 2 ruling from you that if the Board -- 90 percent of
- 3 the questions, probably 95 percent of the questions,
- 4 that I have for these witnesses are in reference to
- issues that are the subject of sub docket A and
- 6 possibly B. If you issue a ruling today that this
- 7 testimony will not be considered by the Board in any
- 8 way whatsoever in either sub docket A or B, then the
- 9 Agency doesn't have any questions for these
- witnesses today. Otherwise, we'll have to proceed
- 11 with specific --
- MS. TIPSORD: Well, I would note that they
- also filed comments in -- both in sub docket A, and
- 14 I believe also B, but it's certainly in --
- MS. WILLIAMS: I certainly --
- MS. TIPSORD: -- sub docket A.
- MS. WILLIAMS: -- wouldn't want to
- 18 cross-examine them on public comments. I would
- 19 never consider doing that. That is not appropriate.
- MS. TIPSORD: And I would say that since this
- 21 is sub docket C and this is being entered in sub
- docket C, this testimony will be considered in sub
- docket C. And if it's not relevant to sub docket C,
- then it wouldn't be considered. But that's not to

- 1 say that -- I have not read the public comment. So
- if public comment covers some of the same territory,
- 3 which I assume that it would.
- And then, in fact, that was one of my
- ⁵ questions I was going to ask of the gentlemen today
- 6 and make sure they understand that the comments
- 7 regarding recreational use are not appropriate for
- 8 this docket but for docket A. So you may see those
- 9 in comments, but this testimony is for sub docket C
- only.
- If there is no other objection, we'll
- mark Mr. Melvin's testimony as Exhibit 434,
- Mr. Kindra's testimony as Exhibit 435 and
- Mr. Wilkins' testimony as 436.
- 15 (Documents marked as IPCB Exhibits
- Nos. 434, 435 & 436 for
- identification.)
- MS. TIPSORD: And, in fact, are there any
- questions for the gentlemen, Ms. Williams?
- MS. WILLIAMS: I may reserve the right to
- follow-up if you have questions for the witnesses,
- but otherwise, no.
- MS. TIPSORD: Okay. Anyone else? All right.
- Gentlemen, I do note that your testimony does cover

- the issues that are addressed in sub docket A, as
- 2 well as some in sub docket B, and I do know that
- 3 the -- that's true with the waterway, not so much
- 4 appears to Mr. Kindra, but that you have filed a
- 5 comment in sub docket A.
- And I want to be sure you understand that
- 7 the points you make in certain recreational use in
- 8 this testimony aren't relevant to this docket but
- 9 are relevant to the other dockets. Are you aware of
- 10 that?
- MR. MELVIN: Yes.
- MR. WILKINS: Yes.
- MS. TIPSORD: All right. And you have -- I
- 14 know that there has been public comment filed --
- and, Mr. Kindra, you've actually filed comments
- before -- before you pre-filed your testimony, you
- had already filed comments in sub docket A.
- MR. KINDRA: Yes.
- MS. TIPSORD: So I just want to be sure that
- you know that any of that information that you want
- the Board to consider in sub docket A, the closing
- of that comment period does not close until
- November 30th, so you still have time to submit them
- 24 in sub docket A.

- 1 MR. KINDRA: Okay. Thank you.
- MS. TIPSORD: Okay. Anybody else have any
- 3 questions?
- 4 MS. FREDE: I have a couple of questions.
- 5 MS. TIPSORD: Okay.
- 6 MS. FREDE: My name is Lisa Frede. I'm with
- 7 the Chemical Industry Council of Illinois.
- Yesterday, gentlemen, there was a lot of
- 9 discussion regarding a restricted navigational area.
- 10 And from what I understand, this is a very important
- area to you all. Last August 2009, there was a
- safety testing done by the U.S. Coast Guard
- 13 regarding the electrical barrier. The barrier was
- then shut down to all red-flag barges going through
- the barrier area. And could you please explain to
- 16 the Board what a red flag barge is?
- MR. WILKINS: A red flag barge -- this is Del
- Wilkins speaking. And a red flag barge is a barge
- 19 that carries hazardous cargoes. Under U.S. Coast
- Guard provisions, hazardous cargoes are defined as
- 21 chemical pulling cargoes, can be volatile and
- 22 flammable.
- MS. FREDE: Could you also please talk to the
- 24 concern of what occurred during that safety testing

- and what requirements came out of the safety testing
- for barges and recreational boats?
- MR. WILKINS: During the safety testing of
- 4 the barges transiting the electric barrier area --
- 5 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm going to object. Can you
- 6 repeat the question.
- 7 (WHEREUPON, the record was read by
- 8 the reporter.)
- 9 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm going to object to this
- question as related to recreational uses are not
- appropriate for this docket.
- MS. TIPSORD: I think it relates to Asian
- carp, so let them answer the question.
- MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. I just was going to say
- it's going to open up a lot more areas. Okay.
- MS. TIPSORD: You may answer the question.
- 17 Go ahead.
- MR. WILKINS: Okay. During the testing of
- the red-flag barges and the initial electric barrier
- area corridor, it was noticed that there was
- 21 sparking between the barges, sparking -- electrical
- 22 arcing or sparking, if you will, between the barges
- which gave great concern to the Corps of Engineers
- to be able to recognize that they had to do further

- 1 testing, and they also put some restrictions by
- working with their colleagues at the Coast Guard,
- who is basically the policing agency and authority
- for the interim waterway system, to restrict
- 5 navigation and then the Corps of Engineers to do
- 6 further testing to understand the levels of current
- 7 weather to the barrier and its effect on steel
- 8 barges.
- 9 MS. FREDE: And so then did the Coast Guard
- issue a set of requirements for the barge industry
- 11 at that point?
- MR. WILKINS: Requirement at that point in
- time, there was the requirement for us just to make
- sure that we don't transit by passing, meeting other
- 15 tows. There was requirements around crew members
- being exposed to this area, proper PPE, which is
- a -- PPE is a proper protocol of having safety
- 18 requirement on the mariners themselves. And also
- 19 they -- at that point in time initially, further
- testing was going to be done by the Corps to
- 21 ascertain the safety of navigation.
- MS. FREDE: You mentioned arc flashing. Why
- is arc flashing an issue with the barges going
- through this area?

- MR. WILKINS: Arc flashing is a -- especially
- in concerns to red-flag barges, I mentioned the fact
- 3 that they're hazardous and flammable commodities.
- 4 And if you introduce electrical arcing and sparking
- on steel, which is also a conduit of electricity,
- 6 you could end up with a kaboom.
- 7 MS. FREDE: Is there a safety group
- 8 specifically set up to meet regarding this safety
- 9 barrier?
- MR. MELVIN: Yes, Lisa -- it's Mr. Melvin --
- 11 there is. The group meets approximately every other
- month now. The group's focus is transiting safely
- through the area, bringing up issues that have
- occurred, you know, during the time since the last
- meetings, as well as there's some subcommittees,
- 16 such as recovery and rescue groups that have been
- 17 put together and signage groups that have been put
- together, to try to coordinate safe passage for
- both -- you know, all vessels transiting the area.
- MS. FREDE: And is there any restriction for
- 21 the companies or the barges going through should a
- 22 man fall overboard in that area?
- MR. MELVIN: Currently the recommendation
- through the safety work group is not to attempt

- 1 recovery in the area, to try to -- you know, if you
- 2 can throw a soft line or a nonconductive line to a
- 3 person if they're coherent to grab the line, drag
- 4 them out of the electrical field, then try to pull
- 5 them out of the vessel.
- 6 MS. FREDE: And will the Coast Guard put
- 7 their boats in this area?
- MR. MELVIN: The Coast Guard has said this is
- 9 the only area of the country that they will not
- 10 attempt to rescue in.
- MS. DEXTER: Can I ask a question, please?
- 12 Jessica Dexter, ELPC.
- Are any of you under the impression that
- 14 the Pollution Control Board has the power to select
- the means of patrolling Asian carp in this
- 16 proceeding?
- MR. ANDES: Are you asking them a legal
- 18 issue?
- MS. DEXTER: I'm wondering what we're talking
- 20 about here. I mean, the only way that this relates
- 21 to Asian carp is that we're talking about electrical
- barriers, and the Board isn't in control of
- 23 electrical barriers. I don't --
- MR. ANDES: There are already motions about

- this, and the Board's hearing testimony on the --
- MS. DEXTER: I know --
- MR. ANDES: -- Asian carp --
- MS. DEXTER: -- that we've heard more about
- 5 what the testimony actually consists of, so I'm
- 6 going to object to what's going on.
- 7 MS. TIPSORD: Well, I -- frankly I'm not
- 8 sure -- I mean, yesterday we were asking questions
- 9 about Coast Guard's studies about how long people
- could be in water, and no one objected to that line
- of questioning yesterday. So I'm not sure why we're
- objecting to it today, because to me it seems to be
- 13 the same thing.
- Because my question to you gentlemen is
- 15 the safety concerns that are developing as a result
- of the barrier, do you know, is there a possibility
- that the barrier may not be used in the future
- because of the potential harm to commercial
- 19 navigation?
- MR. KINDRA: Not that I'm aware of.
- MR. WILKINS: Yeah, I would echo that. Not
- that I'm aware of that there's -- it's permanent.
- MS. TIPSORD: Okay.
- MR. RAO: Were some of the safety issues,

- were they present since 2002 when the first
- 2 electrical barrier went into place?
- MR. WILKINS: Not at all, sir.
- 4 MS. TIPSORD: No.
- 5 MR. WILKINS: Prior to electrical barriers,
- 6 there was no safety zone established and no
- 7 restricted navigation or area established in this
- 8 corridor.
- MS. TIPSORD: To further on that answer, the
- 10 electrical barrier, when the design and installation
- was taking place, the Illinois River Carriers
- 12 Association had worked closely with the Army Corps
- of Engineers and had been ensured that it would not
- create any safety issues. In approximately 2004,
- two years after the installation and startup of the
- demonstration barrier, which later became known as
- "Barrier 1," a towboat was placing a face wire, a
- steel cable, from the towboat to a barge, and an arc
- jumped approximately 12 inches; that raised safety
- 20 concerns.
- MR. ANDES: Can you explain how the -- how
- the changes in the barrier operation have effected
- the safety concerns in terms of 2002, 2004, and then
- much more recently, and how those two situations

- 1 differ?
- MS. TIPSORD: In 2002, 2003, we were
- operating normally through there. 2004, once the
- 4 safety testing began and the electrical current in
- 5 the field was realized that it could cause a problem
- 6 above, there were -- had been restrictions on safety
- gear going through there, a location of personnel
- going through there. No personnel are to be on open
- 9 decks to where there's a chance of falling overboard
- unless they have a special type of life jacket on to
- 11 keep their head afloat.
- Red-flag barges are required now to hire
- an assist boat to get them safely through; that way,
- 14 if the main towboat was to lose steering and lose
- propulsion for some reason, there's another vessel
- there that can take control of the tow to where they
- do not have to land on the wall, which could cause
- arcing across to the wall.
- MR. ANDES: And then there were additional
- issues, and there was a decrease in voltage?
- MR. MELVIN: All right. In 2008, I believe
- 22 it was, with the installation of Barrier 2-A, it had
- the additional ability to be turned up to four volts
- per square inch, I believe it was, which again added

- safety concerns. A new round of safety testing had
- 2 to be done. There was a kneejerk reaction to raise
- 3 the voltage based on some evidence that the carp may
- 4 be closer than they thought, then that prohibited
- 5 red flags from transiting at all.
- Once the voltage was turned up, the Coast
- Guard said, Absolutely not. Until we get some
- 8 safety testing done, we're not comfortable letting
- 9 any vessels pass through the area. So there was
- about a week delay before any vessels could transit.
- 11 And I believe it was about two weeks before red
- 12 flags could begin to transit.
- MR. GIRARD: Could I ask a general question?
- 14 I'll direct this to the panel, and you can decide
- who can answer it.
- But given the safety concerns with the
- electrical barrier and the fact that we're turning
- up the amount of energy going through that barrier,
- 19 and is -- is the barge industry going to consider
- 20 taking the stand that we should find some other way
- 21 to make a barrier, such as the, you know, acoustic
- bubble system or some other type of barrier rather
- than electrical? And are you putting forward that
- 24 position?

- MR. MELVIN: We've made recommendations for
- other types of preventative measures to be taken.
- We have not made a recommendation to completely shut
- 4 down the electrical barriers. We believe it's an
- 5 effective line of defense.
- 6 MR. KINDRA: There's something called a disco
- 5 barrier; it's lights, it's sound and it's waves.
- 8 And the Corps of Engineers are developing that. We
- 9 strongly support that they develop that and install
- 10 it. And it would be another barrier in addition to
- 11 the electrical barrier.
- MR. WILKINS: And I would add that we have
- worked with the Corps as they have gone through
- these steps; as there I mentioned, going from the
- one volt to the maximum of four volts per square
- inch. But they don't operate at the high end, they
- operate in middle range. And we're comfortable with
- that testing and comfortable working with them, so
- we have no initiative to try to say shut down the
- 20 barriers, per se.
- MR. KINDRA: One thing we found out is that
- 22 if the barges are wired together hard so that they
- 23 are -- several barges are wired as a unit, then
- there's no flexing, there's no moving, there's just

- one big unit hardwired -- hardwired to the boat,
- 2 then sparking and arcing does not occur.
- MR. ANDES: Does that mean that you're
- occupying most of the space in the waterway with --
- 5 are they positioned laterally, the boats, or --
- 6 MR. WILKINS: The -- or you can answer that,
- 7 John.
- MR. MELVIN: The tow configuration can vary.
- 9 But what John's saying is that by connecting barge
- to barge to barge with steel cables -- it's like
- 11 having one long piece of copper wiring in your
- 12 household. You can grab that, and you're fine. But
- if there's two pieces that are bumping back and
- 14 forth together, you better not touch those because
- you're going to get a jolt out of them. Same
- 16 scenario.
- MR. ANDES: And you've got a long line of
- wire that's all connected?
- MR. WILKINS: True.
- MR. MELVIN: Yes.
- MR. WILKINS: Which is standard operating
- 22 procedure connected by a series of wires and
- 23 turnovers.
- MR. TESHER: This is Ariel Tesher from --

- 1 representing Citgo and SNR Denton.
- Just a question, I guess, more about the
- work that you guys do on the waterways. We've been
- 4 talking about the Asian carp, and an electric
- 5 barrier is one way to keep them out. Assuming a
- 6 pretty bad case scenario that the Asian carp problem
- 7 gets worse and they're able to thrive in the
- 8 waterways and one of the solutions proposed gets
- 9 implemented and some loss of closure intermittently
- or permanently, how's that going to affect your
- 11 activities on the waterways?
- MR. MELVIN: I'll start out. You know, my
- concern is not only locks, but you're also going to
- have possibly water fluctuation problems and/or, you
- know, stagnant water or lack of navigational water.
- 16 If the locks were to be closed and our operation,
- which is based in Romeoville, Illinois, cannot ship
- via the waterway, just our small company alone would
- put about 75 to 80,000 trucks a year on the road in
- 20 Chicago to deliver the product that we deliver by
- 21 barge annually.
- MR. KINDRA: Our company, if they were to
- close O'Brien Lock, O'Brien Lock, a study that the
- Port of Indiana did, that the barge traffic that

- goes through O'Brien Lock represents 17,000 jobs and
- 2 1.9 billion dollars in economic activity. That's
- for O'Brien Lock. That's barges going through
- 4 O'Brien Lock. We move the barges that are going
- 5 through O'Brien Lock. We'd be out of business. I'd
- 6 have to fold up and sell my stuff and retire --
- 7 MR. ANDES: And that --
- MR. KINDRA: -- so that is --
- 9 MR. ANDES: -- traffic -- and that traffic
- would go by truck most likely, right?
- MR. KINDRA: Well, no, the ultimate
- destination may be that they rail it from -- a lot
- of our products come from New Orleans. It may go by
- 14 rail from New Orleans to the steel mills, or it may
- go to Lemont or Lockport or Joliet and truck it
- 16 across the balance. We don't know.
- MR. WILKINS: I think there's two steps to
- 18 the answer to your question. Let me rephrase the
- 19 question, because intermittent versus permanent
- 20 closure are two different scenarios and two
- 21 different results. Both have consequences,
- obviously permanent. I would side with my
- 23 colleagues in their answer. Intermittent closure is
- 24 also a challenge in the sense that I liken -- the

- best knowledge that I've heard is that, you know,
- 2 Metra runs from all around the city to downtown five
- days a week. People have to go to work five days a
- 4 week.
- And the same with barging. You have to
- 6 move five to seven days a week, 365, 24/7. So
- 7 intermittent really starts to infringe on the timing
- 8 of moving equipment from not just the Chicago area
- 9 but around the country. We can't forget that we
- 10 receive goods and commodities from around the
- 11 country, not just in the greater area.
- MS. TIPSORD: Anything further?
- MS. DEXTER: I have one other question.
- 14 You talked about working with the Corps
- and Coast Guard closely. Is there anything that the
- barge operators are doing currently with the Corps
- in regards to Asian carp transfer on the barges?
- MR. KINDRA: That's called the Ballast Water
- 19 Sampling Group. And both Darren and I are involved
- in that. The -- and I think Del, as well. As last
- summer, they came out and measured the amount of
- 22 water that was in barges, and I think they measured
- 75 barges, opened all the tanks and measured the
- water, the temperature and the oxygen.

- In 2011, they're planning during the
- spawning season to have a barge outfitted so that it
- 3 can take water on to act as if a barge had been
- 4 damaged, that the water would come in, and see if
- 5 larvae could get in this, and then move this barge
- 6 back and forth, assuming it's moving up and down the
- 7 river, also testing for the survivability of the
- 8 Asian carp inside the barge.
- 9 MS. DEXTER: So basically there is a
- 10 potential for the Asian carp to make it past the
- 11 barrier in this regard if there should be a crevice
- or a void in the barge itself? The potential?
- MR. MELVIN: The potential is there, no
- different than the potential is there for a minnow
- bucket transfer.
- MS. DEXTER: That's all I have.
- MS. TIPSORD: Anything further?
- MS. WILLIAMS: I have one question for
- 19 Mr. Kindra, I believe.
- The last sentence on the second page of
- your testimony, "I believe the Invasive Species Act
- outranks and should take priority over the Clean
- 23 Water Act." Can you just explain that to us,
- 24 please?

- 1 MR. KINDRA: I'm sorry, where -- what
- question number is it? What question number?
- 3 Because I have --
- 4 MS. TIPSORD: It's --
- MS. WILLIAMS: What do you mean? What are
- 6 you asking me? Do I have a list of questions?
- MS. TIPSORD: At the bottom of page two of
- 9 your testimony.
- 9 MR. KINDRA: Okay. Could you please repeat
- the question for me.
- MS. WILLIAMS: Sure. I would just like you
- to explain a sentence from page two of your
- 13 testimony. It's the very last sentence. And I'm
- 14 counting this from where -- you know, I'm not
- 15 counting the latter but then --
- MR. KINDRA: Okay. I see where you are. You
- don't have to repeat it.
- MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.
- MR. KINDRA: I had heard that in the state of
- 20 Colorado -- and I don't have specifics, so. That
- the State of Colorado was able to invoke the
- 22 provisions of the Invasive Species Act over the
- provisions of the Clean Water Act.
- MS. WILLIAMS: Okay.

- MR. KINDRA: And so that was my --
- MS. WILLIAMS: That's what you're --
- MR. KINDRA: That's what I'm referring to
- 4 here.
- 5 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.
- 6 MS. TIPSORD: Anything further?
- MS. WILLIAMS: I don't think so.
- 8 MS. TIPSORD: Okay. Gentlemen, thank you
- 9 very much.
- MR. WILKINS: Thank you.
- MR. KINDRA: You're welcome.
- MR. MELVIN: Thanks.
- 13 (WHEREUPON, the witnesses were
- 14 excused.)
- MS. TIPSORD: And let's go off the record for
- just one moment.
- 17 (WHEREUPON, a recess was had from
- 11:17 a.m. to 11:21 a.m.)
- MS. TIPSORD: I want to thank everyone again
- for all your professionalism. And we'll see you
- next year. Thank you. We're adjourned.
- 22 (WHEREUPON, at 11:22 a.m. the
- hearing adjourned.)

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 5
                 I, JENNIFER L. WIESCH, a Certified
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