



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

DEC 12 2011

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

WQ-16J

Illinois Pollution Control Board, Clerk's Office
James R. Thompson Center, Suite 11-500
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: R2008-009(B)

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency commends the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), various environmental groups, and the Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation District for reaching agreement on the disinfection schedule for the Calumet and North Side Water Reclamation plants, as described in their joint statement filed with the Board on November 10, 2011. EPA strongly recommends the Board adopt the following language proposed by the Illinois EPA to implement that agreement, as set forth on page 13 of the separate comments the Illinois EPA filed with the Board on November 10:

Effluents discharged to the Primary Contact Recreation waters listed in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 303.220 must not exceed 400 fecal coliforms per 100 mL from March 1 through November 30. All effluents in existence on or before the effective date of this Section must meet these standards no later than four years after the effective date of this Section. All new discharges must meet these standards upon the initiation of discharge.

We also strongly recommend the Board not include in its rules the *force majeure* provisions described in the November 10 joint statement.

Please contact Linda Holst of my staff if you have any questions. She can be reached at (312) 886-6758 or holst.linda@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tinka G. Hyde".

Tinka G. Hyde
Director, Water Division

cc: Marcia Willhite, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency