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June 21, 2018

Sean McCarthy, Director
Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
100 W. Randolph St., Suite 3-400
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Request for Economic Impact Study for Amendments to General Use Water Quality Standards for Chloride, Board Docket R18-32.

Dear Director McCarthy:

I write to request that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity conduct an economic impact study of the rulemaking proposal cited above. On May 21, 2018, Huff & Huff Inc. filed a proposed rulemaking to amend the Board's General Use water quality standard for chloride. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.208(g). Huff and Huff, Inc. asserts that the General Use standard for chloride, as applied to the Chicago Area Waterway System and Lower Des Plaines River System (excluding the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal) are more stringent than necessary to protect aquatic species in Illinois streams during winter months. Two changes are proposed: 1) delete the numeric water quality standard for chloride in Section 302.208(g); 2) add a new Section 302.214 (Chlorides) setting seasonal numeric standards.

For the reasons below, we would appreciate your response to this request no later than August 6, 2018.

Section 27(b) of the Environmental Protection Act requires the Board to

- (1) request that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity conduct a study of the economic impact of the proposed rules. The Department may within 30 to 45 days of such request produce a study of the economic impact of the proposed rules. At a minimum, the economic impact study shall address

- (A) economic, environmental, and public health benefits that may be achieved through compliance with the proposed rules,
 - (B) the effects of the proposed rules on employment levels, commercial productivity, the economic growth of small businesses with 100 or less employees, and the State's overall economy, and
 - (C) the cost per unit of pollution reduced and the variability in cost based on the size of the facility and the percentage of company revenues expected to be used to implement the proposed rules; and
- (2) conduct at least one public hearing on the economic impact of those new rules. At least 20 days before the hearing, the Board shall notify the public of the hearing and make the economic impact study, or the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's explanation for not producing an economic impact study, available to the public. Such public hearing may be held simultaneously or as a part of any Board hearing considering such new rules. 415 ILCS 5/27(b) (2016).

Although there is no decision deadline in this rulemaking, in the interest of administrative economy, the Board would like to combine the hearing required by Section 27(b) with a hearing on the substantive merits of the proposal. The Board intends to hold two hearings on dates to be announced. Under these circumstances, the Board respectfully asks that you determine whether the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity will conduct an economic impact study on the proposal and respond no later than August 6, 2018. If I or my staff can provide any additional information, please let me know.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Katie Papadimitriu, Chairman
Pollution Control Board

cc: Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Board