

Agenda Item # 34

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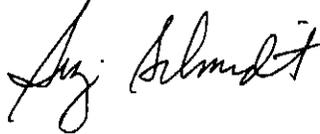
STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF LAKE) SS

COUNTY BOARD, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ADJOURNED REGULAR JUNE, A.D., 2007 SESSION
AUGUST 14, A.D., 2007

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD:

Your Chairman presents herewith a Resolution that supports and endorses the reduction of all sources of mercury into Lake Michigan and Lake County; and further, opposes the granting of the pollution discharge permit and exemption for British Petroleum PLC Whiting, Indiana Refinery; and request its adoption.

Respectfully submitted.



Suzi Schmidt
Chairman
Lake County Board

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are the largest freshwater system on earth and account for 95 percent of the United States' surface freshwater and about 21 percent of the world's supply; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes provide drinking water for more than 30 million Americans which includes approximately 60 percent of the Lake County population; and,

WHEREAS, despite its size, Lake Michigan is a finite resource that is vulnerable to depletion and degradation; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Lake and Lake Michigan communities have a shared duty to protect, conserve, restore, improve and manage the finite waters of Lake Michigan for the use, benefit and enjoyment of all of their current and future citizens; and,

WHEREAS, pollution control standards regarding mixing zone requirements and anti-degradation standards are in place and should be applied and enforced equally to prevent increased toxic discharges into Lake Michigan and discourage actions that threaten the water quality of the Lake; and,

WHEREAS, measures should be taken by all to ensure that toxic discharges are kept at or below current levels in a manner that is environmentally sustainable; and,

WHEREAS, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) recently granted a pollution discharge permit and exemption to the BP PLC Whiting, Indiana refinery to allow an increase in discharge of 54 percent more ammonia and 35 percent more total suspended solids into Lake Michigan each day; and,

WHEREAS, technology exists and is feasible to remove ammonia and total suspended solids,

WHEREAS, Congressman Kirk along with the Shoreline Mayors Task Force after reviewing British Petroleum's permit request have joined together in opposing any increase in pollutant discharge into Lake Michigan,

WHEREAS, the County of Lake has determined that advocating for the continued conservation, protection, and improvement of Lake Michigan will serve and be in the best interest of the County, its residents and the region,;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by this County Board of Lake County, Illinois that that the Lake County Board shall, and does hereby, express concern for and oppose the pollution discharge permit and exemption granted to British Petroleum by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and urges the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider issuance of the permit and ensure that adequate pollution controls are in place to prevent increased toxic discharges from the expanded British Petroleum refinery in Whiting, Indiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is hereby authorized to distribute a certified copy of the Resolution to the County Board, County Administrator, Executive Director of the Lake County Health Department, Assistant Administrator for Water at the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), State of Illinois, Office of the Governor, State and Federal Congressman representing Lake County, the Shoreline Mayors Task Force, and other affected parties.

DATED, at Waukegan, Lake County, Illinois on this 14th day of August, A.D., 2007.