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Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 4:49 PM
To: Tim Loftus; bcarter@co.lake.il.us; martin@dpwc.org
Cc: Bonnett, Lisa; Elzinga, Sherrie; Willhite, Marcia; thecomptons311@comcast.net
Subject: RE: CMAP RWSPG Announcement--next meeting and posting of final draft water plan
Attachments: RE: CMAP RWSPG Announcement--next meeting and posting of final draft water plan

Dear Dr. Loftis,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. The purpose of this e-mail is to provide comments on the *Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Supply Plan*. First, I want to congratulate you and the Regional Water Supply Planning Group (RWSPG) for the work that you did on developing this report, it is a good product. In addition, the stakeholder group assembled for this effort is invaluable in terms of future support. I am under the assumption that comprehensive integration with groundwater quality was side stepped intentionally (with the exception of chlorides) because this was a massive effort. I agree with this strategy.

However, now that this undertaking is almost complete in terms of a final report, a recommendation should be included in the final report to initiate dialog with the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Groundwater (ICCG)[415 ILCS 55/4], Groundwater Advisory Council (GAC) [415 ILCS 55/5], and the Priority Groundwater Protection Planning Regions [415 ILCS 5/17.2] to develop comprehensive integration with groundwater quality considerations. The timing is good, because the ICCG in cooperation with the GAC and the 4 regional groundwater protection planning committees just published recommendations and future directions in the Illinois Groundwater Protection Act Biennial Report [415 ILCS 55/4(b)(8)] for the next 2 years. The following was one of the key messages and recommendations in the Executive Summary:

- Analyses of groundwater data in Illinois collected from 1990 to the present continues to show an overall statistically significant increasing trend of community water supply wells with volatile organic compound detections per year.
- A long-term investigation by the U.S. Geological Survey continues to provide the most **comprehensive national analysis**, to date, of the occurrence of volatile organic compounds in groundwater. One of the major findings is that volatile organic compounds were detected in most aquifers throughout the nation, and were not limited to a few specific aquifers or regions. For further detail see http://toxics.usgs.gov/highlights/monitoring_vocs.html.
- At the same time, future groundwater shortages are predicted in the Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Supply Demand Report published by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

Recommendation: These combined factors make it imperative to, at a minimum, require cleanup regulations to apply more stringent objectives within wellhead protection areas delineated for community water supply wells. Wellhead protection areas are currently not considered. Further, consideration should be given to require the implementation of wellhead protection programs versus using a voluntary approach. Water quantity protection efforts continue to be led by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Office of Water Resources

and the pilot regional water supply planning committees established by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Once again we applaud you on your efforts, and look forward to future discussions to comprehensively protect our water resources.

Sincerely,
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