

Minutes
Environmental Advisory Board
Special Meeting
Monday, January 30, 2012
8:30 a.m.
Town Hall

Present: Susan MiHalo, Gerry Lehmann and John Morris

The purpose of the meeting was determine the focus of town comments on the renewal of Gary Sanitary District's (GSD) National Pollution Elimination Discharge Permit (NPDES) that is up for public review until February 6 when comments are due to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The GSD maintains six combined sewer overflow (CSO) points on the Little Calumet River West Branch that could potentially impact the Ogden Dunes beach during a wet weather event. While there are some technical issues with the permit in general that other entities are focusing on, i.e., Save the Dunes and the Natural Resources Defense Council, the ODEAB decided, by consensus, to only comment on issues pertaining to CSOs. In particular, concern was expressed that GSD is one of the only remaining sanitary districts in Indiana in the Lake Michigan Watershed that does not have a Long-Term-Control Plan (LTCP).

Comments will address EPA's regulatory policy on CSOs and how the GSD needs to have enforceable deadlines for the LTCP that has been under development since around 2006. We also need to clarify whether or not the communities that send their wastewater to GSD, including Hobart, Merrillville and Lake Station, also have CSO points that are not included in this permit. Concerns were also expressed about whether or not industrial waste that would normally be pre-treated might be included in the CSOs. Susan MiHalo will investigate these issues and plans to provide a draft of the comments to the ODEAB by the end of the week.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan MiHalo