



Long Lake Improvement and Sanitation Association
P.O. Box 175
Ingleside, IL 60041

August 19, 2016

Mr. Jose E. Almeida
Chairman & CEO
Baxter International, Inc.
One Baxter Parkway, Deerfield, IL 60015

Re: Baxter Healthcare Corporation NPDES Permit # IL0024074

Dear Mr. Almeida,

As president, I am writing on behalf of the Long Lake Improvement and Sanitation Association (LLISA), a registered not-for-profit organization in the state of Illinois, responsible for the management and well-being of Long Lake, a 384-acre lake located in northwestern Lake County, IL. Our organization represents approximately 400 private residences around Long Lake who call on Baxter to **oppose the industrial and sanitary waste water discharge into Squaw Creek and the issuance of any NPDES permit renewal**. We further urge Baxter to immediately correct the continued violations of the current NPDES permit.

The Long Lake Improvement and Sanitation Association grows increasingly concerned about the NPDES permit number IL0024074 granted to Baxter Healthcare, Inc., 25212 W. IL Route 120, Round Lake, IL 60073, that allows industrial and sanitary waste water to be discharged into Squaw Creek, the main-stem tributary of Long Lake, less than 5,000 feet upstream from Long Lake residents. According to the EPA website, Baxter has been in violation of their NPDES permit requirements for the past 10 consecutive quarters, including a serious violation in the first quarter of 2015.

LLISA attempted to work directly with Baxter Healthcare regarding our concerns but are frustrated to see the violations continue and pollutant levels increase. By July, Baxter already exceeded the 2016 limits in total pounds per year for biological oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS) as reported by the EPA, including an increase in phosphorus as compared to a year ago. This is particularly concerning because Long Lake is identified on the EPA's 303(d) list as an impaired waterway for high levels of phosphorus and total suspended solids and Long Lake experienced severe blue-green algae blooms from July – November 2015, causing toxic water conditions unsafe for residents and the environment.

While Baxter has been generous to the Long Lake community in the past through donations to two different construction projects this does not absolve your corporate responsibility to follow permit requirements and maintain strong environmental standards. We have enjoyed a cooperative relationship with Baxter and hope to continue into the future, but LLISA must request for Baxter to connect their privately owned and operated water treatment plant to the public sewer system. Long Lake residents moved to public sewers over 35 years ago. It is now time for Baxter, a large industrial corporation, to be held to the same standard.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Ringa III
LLISA President