



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

August 19, 2016

Mr. Alec Messina
Director, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East, PO Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

Re: Baxter Healthcare Corporation NPDES Permit # IL0024074

Dear Mr. Messina,

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 the IEPA to **oppose any NPDES permit renewal to Baxter Healthcare**. We further urge the IEPA to take action against Baxter in response to continued violations of their current 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 and IEPA representative Chris Kallis 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 as Long Lake is identified on the EPA's 303(d) list as an impaired waterway for high levels of phosphorus and total suspended solids. Further, Long Lake experienced severe blue-green algae blooms from July – November 2015, causing toxic water conditions unsafe for residents and the environment.

The Long Lake Improvement and Sanitation Association has the support of local government to address our concerns, however, none of these agencies have authority to curb Baxter's permit violations, which is why we are addressing the IEPA directly. We are in constant communication with Lake County Board member for District 5, Bonnie Thomson Carter, Senior Biologist at the Lake County Health Department, Michael Adam, and the Lakes Region Sanitary District.

LLISA requests 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
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