



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

July 27, 2017

Office of the Illinois Attorney General  
500 South Second Street  
Springfield, IL 62701

Re: Baxter Healthcare Corporation NPDES Permit # IL0024074

Dear Attorney General Madigan,

As president, I am writing on behalf of the Long Lake Improvement and Sanitation Association (LLISA), responsible for the management of Long Lake, Lake County, IL. Our organization has previously expressed opposition to any NPDES permit renewal to Baxter Healthcare, Inc., 25212 W. IL Route 120, Round Lake, IL 60073, and have urged the IEPA to respond to Baxter's continued violation of their current NPDES permit IL0024074. We understand the IEPA has not accepted Baxter's proposed compliance agreement and that the matter has been referred to the Illinois Attorney General. We are hopeful this pressure will lead to Baxter Healthcare being in compliance with their current permit and eventually to their connection to public sanitary sewers. **If, however, any financial penalty is assessed in response to Baxter Healthcare's NPDES violations we request this money be directed back to the improvement and management of Long Lake and the Squaw Creek watershed.**

Baxter Healthcare's Round Lake facility has been discharging treated waste water into Squaw Creek, the main-stem tributary of Long Lake, for over 40 years. This, in addition to other pollution sources, has resulted in irreparable harm to the environmental and recreational value of the lake. Long Lake is identified on the EPA's 303(d) list as an impaired waterway for high levels of phosphorus and total suspended solids. More importantly, Long Lake experiences severe blue-green algae blooms on a regular basis, creating a very dangerous public health issue. Microcystin levels have been measured as high as 20,000 ug/l in the summer months.

Members of the Long Lake Improvement and Sanitation Association and the Sierra Club's Woods & Wetlands Group reviewed the May 2004 Squaw Creek Watershed Management Plan and identified the following objectives as priority projects for Long Lake:

**Goal 2 Improve Water Quality in the Watershed's Streams and Lakes**

Objective 2B-Address sedimentation

- 3- Encourage farmers in floodplain to voluntarily participate in soil erosion programs,
- 4- Develop buffer zones and grassed waterways
- 8- Riffle structure for online sediment storage in Mud Lake

Objective 2D- Improve water quality in impaired reaches & Objective 2C- Maintain and improve water quality in unimpaired reaches

- D4- Long term plan to control lake phosphorus regeneration
- C1 and 13- Minimize homeowner and municipal use of phosphorus and road salt, including Lake County ordinance banning phosphorus-containing lawn fertilizer
- C11 and D2 and 2- Shoreline stabilization on feeders and Long Lake itself
- C10-Audubon Certification for Renwood, Stonewall Orchard and Steeplechase golf courses.

#### **Goal 4 Develop and Utilize Tools for Plan Implementation**

Objective 4A-Develop and pursue funding opportunities for funding of the plan

- Update plan to Watershed-based plan

Respectfully,

Robert J. Ringa III

LLISA President

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