



## ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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THOMAS V. SKINNER, DIRECTOR

217-782-3362

July 16, 2001

Mr. Joseph Raoul, P.E.  
Chief, Engineering Division  
Department of the Army  
Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers  
Clock Tower Building  
P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

RE: Sediment and Soil Quality, Site 5, Illinois River near Beardstown

Dear Mr. Raoul:

I have been in communication with Mr. Clint Beckert of your office concerning the quality (in terms of contaminant chemicals) of soil and sediments from disposal Site 5 and the Illinois River between miles 86.2 and 89.6, respectively. Mr. Becker sent us chemical data from samples collected in the river and at the disposal site to obtain our assessment based our experience with water and sediment quality issues.

As you may know, surface water sediment criteria do not exist in Illinois statutes. We evaluate sediments deposited under surface waters on a comparative basis from numerous samples collected over the years from across Illinois. A statistical analysis has been made of these collections allowing specific samples to be categorized into "non-elevated", "elevated" and "highly elevated" classifications. This system is described in an Illinois EPA publication *Evaluation of Illinois Stream Sieved Sediment Data 1982-1995*, August, 1997, IEPA/BOW/97-016. For the substances covered in this publication, all of the samples of sediment from the Illinois River are "non-elevated" meaning that they are relatively uncontaminated. In fact, for the few detectable metals in the river samples, e.g., copper, chromium, etc., concentrations were very low and far from the upper range of the non-elevated category. Organic chemicals were not detected in the river sediment samples. In a word, the river sediment samples are clean.

No system exists for categorizing dry land sediments in the Bureau of Water. However, a comparison of the Site 5 soil with the river sediments is possible. Several organic chemicals are detectable in the Site 5 soil, chlordane, dieldrin, heptachlor and heptachlor epoxide. These results suggest an agricultural influence. If we were to detect these substances in a surface water sediment at the concentrations found at Site 5, the sediment would be considered elevated to highly elevated depending on the substance. The metals content of the Site 5 soil is very similar to the Illinois River sediment. Because of the pesticide residues in the Site 5 soil, they cannot be considered clean, as were the river sediments.

GEORGE H. RYAN, GOVERNOR

I hope this review is of use to you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above phone number.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Mosher".

Robert Mosher

cc: Clint Beckert, USACOE (same address)