

**Bureau of Environmental Programs**

State Fairgrounds · P.O. Box 19281 · Springfield, IL 62794-9281 · 217/785-2427 (voice/TYY) · Fax 217/524-4882  
Pesticide Misuse Hotline 1-800-641-3934 (voice/TYY)

March 27, 2008

Mr. Rick Cobb  
Bureau of Water, Division of Public Water Supplies  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
1021 N. Grand Ave. E.  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

**RECEIVED**  
APR 01 2008  
McHENRY COUNTY  
DEPT. OF HEALTH

Dear Mr. Cobb:

Recently you referred an e-mail message to the Illinois Department of Agriculture (Department) from the McHenry County Health Department (MCHD) dealing with possible water contamination at the Village of Port Barrington. To summarize the concerns, ponds in the Riverwalk subdivision were treated with several pesticides during 2007 and laboratory analysis of groundwater samples from nearby wells revealed the presence of acid blue 9 dye. You asked the Department to review the information from a pesticide regulatory viewpoint.

The Department reviewed the submitted information and also generated additional data through an investigation by one of our field staff. The McHenry County Health Department submitted additional pesticide analysis reports and the Department field staff person received service reports and copies of pesticide product labels from Aquatic Weed Technology (AWT), the company which applied the products to the ponds.

Through the laboratory testing arranged by MCHD, water samples were analyzed for a number of nitrogen/phosphorus pesticides, chlorinated pesticides and PCBs, chlorinated acid herbicides, copper, coliform bacteria, chloride, nitrate, and acid blue 9 dye. Glyphosate, endothall, and diquat, the active ingredients in the pesticides applied by AWT, were also included in the analyses.

With the exception of acid blue 9 dye, analytes from the above list were not detected or, in the case of nitrate and copper, were below the applicable safe drinking water standards. The active ingredients in the pesticide products applied by AWT were not detected. Acid blue 9 dye was detected in several samples. However, pursuant to definitions in the Illinois Pesticide Act [415 ILCS 60], acid blue 9 dye is not considered a pesticide and is therefore not subject to the pesticide regulations.

The Department reviewed the application logs generated and maintained by AWT. All the employees of AWT who applied pesticides in the ponds at Riverwalk were properly licensed with the Department to apply pesticides.

The Department also reviewed the labels of the pesticide products applied to the ponds. After

comparing the information on the application logs with the product labels, it does not appear that any label violations occurred.

Based on the findings explained above, the Department does not believe any further action is warranted from a pesticide regulatory perspective. It does not appear as though a pesticide misuse occurred. In addition, no pesticides were detected in the groundwater samples.

I appreciate your concern about the Illinois environment and the proper use of pesticides. It is our goal to both ensure the proper use of pesticide products and protect the environment. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Warren D. Goetsch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Warren D. Goetsch, P.E.  
Bureau Chief

cc: 111-13-08-5803  
Patricia Nomm, McHenry County Health Dept.  
Suzana Markovic, IDA  
Mark Cinnamon, IDA  
Dennis McKenna, IDA