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**Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago**

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**DAVID ST. PIERRE**

Executive Director

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June 12, 2015

Dear Stakeholder:

You are cordially invited to the follow-up meeting of the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) Chloride Reduction Initiative. The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

- I. Summarize the Purpose of the CAWS Chloride Reduction Initiative.
- II. Solicit and Finalize the Stakeholder Group (require attached survey to be completed).
- III. Discuss Preparation of Variance.

As you may be aware, the Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB) is close to finalizing a new water quality standard for chloride for the CAWS and Lower Des Plaines River (LDPR) (see <http://www.ipcb.state.il.us/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-85804>). Because of the adoption of the chloride water quality standard, where necessary, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) will be obligated to incorporate chloride limits into the NPDES permits. To address the issue of the new chloride water quality standard and its impact on NPDES permit holders, a stakeholder group is being formed to discuss and develop a variance for the chloride standard that would be filed with the IPCB to address the reduction of salt usage in the CAWS using best management practices. A variance is a relief mechanism granted by the IPCB that allows petitioners to address the high chloride problem without being subject to a chloride water quality standard for a specified time period. Any active member of this stakeholder group may become party to the chloride variance if they so choose.

As an NPDES permit holder with jurisdiction over a large portion of Cook County, Illinois, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC) has been asked by the Illinois EPA to form and administer a stakeholder work group with the ultimate goal of reducing chloride discharges and resulting impacts to the waterways.

An initial kick-off meeting was held at the MWRDGC's Stickney Water Reclamation Plant on January 27, 2015. A follow-up meeting to discuss the CAWS Chloride Reduction Initiative will be held on August 4, 2015 at 10:00 am at the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant (Auditorium) located at 6001 West Pershing Road in Cicero, IL.

If you have any questions, please visit [chlorides.mwrdd.org](http://chlorides.mwrdd.org) or contact Mr. Antonio Quintanilla of my staff at 312-751-5102. Also, please RSVP via e-mail by July 22, 2015 to Ms. Stephanie Jones at [Stephanie.jones@mwrdd.org](mailto:Stephanie.jones@mwrdd.org).

We look forward to seeing you on August 4, 2015.

Sincerely,

David St. Pierre

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