

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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March 13, 2008

Mr. Derek Winstanley, D.Phil.
Chief
Illinois State Water Survey
2204 Griffith Drive
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Dr. Winstanley:

This is to acknowledge receipt of, and to respond to, your e-mail message of March 12, 2008 concerning the issue of sustainability in water supply system planning.

In response to the questions posed in your e-mail message, please be advised that the Commission has defined sustainability with respect to water supply system planning as: "the condition of beneficially using water supply resources in such a way that the uses support current and probable future needs, while simultaneously insuring that the resources are not unacceptably damaged." Unacceptable damage is defined as a change in an important physical property of the ground or surface water system – such as water level, water quality, water temperature, recharge rate, or discharge rate – that approaches a significant percentage of the normal range of variability in that property. Impacts that are 10 percent or less of the range in annual or other historic period of record for any property are considered acceptable, unless it can be shown that the cumulative effect of the change may cause a permanent change in an aquatic ecosystem by virtue of increasing the extremes of that property to levels known to be harmful. In the specific case of the deep sandstone aquifer, the term sustainability is being interpreted to mean that the potentiometric surface in that aquifer is maintained at current levels or raised based upon use and recharge conditions within Southeastern Wisconsin.

The foregoing, we believe, answers both of the questions posed in your e-mail message. Should you have any further questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to write or call.

As a part of its water supply system planning effort the Commission has, to date, issued two newsletters, a prospectus, and two technical reports: SEWRPC Report No. 43 *State of the Art of Water Supply Practices*, July 2007, and SEWRPC Report No. 44 *Water Supply Law*, April 2007. These publications are all posted on the Commission website which can be accessed at www.sewrpc.org. Should you desire hard copies, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip C. Evenson".

Philip C. Evenson
Executive Director

PCE/KWB/lgh
#135838 v1 - Winstanley Ltr.