



Template Resolution for City Council Consideration:

Resolution Opposing BP PLC Whiting Refinery Permit

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are valuable national and international treasures that are vital to the economy, transportation, livelihood and recreation of the region;

WHEREAS, Lake Michigan provides drinking water to millions of people and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system as a whole provide drinking water to more than 35 million United States and Canadian citizens;

WHEREAS, municipalities recognize that they share responsibility for protecting and restoring this important finite, resource and what is done in one part of the system affects other parts;

WHEREAS, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management has granted the British Petroleum (BP) PLC Whiting Refinery a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit that includes exemptions from two longstanding Great Lakes water quality principles: the anti-degradation standard and the no mixing zone policy;

WHEREAS, the BP PLC Whiting Refinery expansion will result in an increase by 54 percent of ammonia discharge into Lake Michigan and a 35 percent increase in discharge of total suspended solids, including mercury;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes were plagued by degraded water quality and toxics discharge for years, resulting in detrimental effects such as dead zones and fish advisories pertaining to high mercury levels in the water;

WHEREAS, major progress has been made within the United States and Canada on Great Lakes water quality since the early 1970's;

WHEREAS, the BP PLC Whiting Refinery NPDES permit creates a dangerous precedent for allowing increased discharges and degradation of water quality within the Great Lakes;



WHEREAS, municipalities are already spending billions to clean up pollution within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and ensure that water quality is improved, not degraded;

WHEREAS, municipalities support economic development and reducing dependence on Middle Eastern oil, but not at the expense of the quality of our freshwater and increased risk to human health, fish and wildlife;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of _____ expects BP PLC to implement the proper pollution controls necessary to reduce the amount of pollutant discharge into Lake Michigan below the refinery's current discharge levels, to ensure that our drinking water is safe, and make certain that the wellbeing of our citizens will not be threatened and that Great Lakes ecosystems will not be further damaged;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of _____ expects BP PLC to make use of this opportunity and its reputation as an environmentally conscious company to create a standard within the industry to reduce the industry's impact on the environment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of _____ is committed to ensuring less pollution is discharged into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and to working to protect and restore this precious resource for generations to come.