# PCB dumping in harbor opposed

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Anthony Robert Martin-Trigona, Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, has said he has filed a memorandum with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) opposing further discharges of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) into Waukegan Harbor.

In an interview at the Lake County Courthouse during a Waukegan campaign stop Thursday, Martin-Trigona of Chicago said he will oppose, either through the EPA or the courts, the further dumping of PCB-laden effluent into the harbor sought by Outboard Marine Corp. (OMC).

OMC has asked the EPA to modify a discharge permit to allow an outpouring of 10 parts per billion of PCBs into Lake Michigan from a new sewer system.

OMC, headquartered in Waukegan, filed suit in federal district court Thursday to force the U.S. and state EPAs to tell it how to eliminate an estimated 100,000 pounds of PCBs dumped into the harbor from the 1950s to 1972.

Martin-Trigona called OMC's additional discharge request insensitive. "They've paid no penalties and saturated the harbor," he said. "A strict remedy would be to hold the company liable for decontaminating the harbor."

The Illinois House of Representatives and the Lake Michigan Federation also have condemned OMC's request for additional discharges.

Martin-Trigona, opposed in the March 21 Democratic primary by Alex Seith of Hinsdale, said court precedent for clean-up of the harbor by OMC was set in a Minnesota case involving the dumping of pollutants into Lake Superior by the Reserve Mining Co.

"OMC has dumped an awful lot of poison in the lake before it got caught."

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Martin-Trigona said. OMC officials have said they were unaware heavy hydraulic fluid used in the firm's manufacturing process contained the liquid, which has been found to cause cancer in laboratory animals.

The candidate said he fears if OMC is granted additional discharges "other polluters will use it as a wedge in the door" to dump pollutants into Lake Michigan.

Martin-Trigona said he was taking the action because "typically federal agencies don't protect the public. It took the EPA a year to adopt PCB rules."

He said PCBs are a local issue. U.S. Sen. Charles Percy should get involved in. "It's difficult to do anything about the lake without going through a senator's office," he said.

"Percy may be an expert on foreign affairs, but I'm an expert on local issues and the harbor is an important issue in Waukegan and Lake County —it's a sufficient source of income and recreation, just as important as Chicago's lakefront."

PCB pollution, Martin-Trigona said, is an issue that "escapes Seith and Percy, but it is the crux of where the environmental focus will be going in the next few years."

Through such quasi-legal actions, and count suits against the Regional Transportation Authority and Metropolitan Sanitary District, the candidate said, he is attempting to prove to voters what Illinois lacks in Washington, D.C.

"We have no local, service-oriented senators in Washington," he said. "We have two statesmen and somebody should be doing the constituents' work."



AP File Photo

Anthony Martin-Trigona

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