Statement by George Schillinger

General Manager

American Bottoms Wastewater

Treatment Facility

March 16, 1989

My statement concerns an interim consent order negotiated by the Village of Sauget...the State of Illinois and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. I would like to emphasize that this was a cooperative enterprise involving all concerned parties.

Next Monday (March 20) we will begin adding activated carbon to wastewater processed through our American Bottoms treatment plant. Periodic tests will be made of the effect of the carbon on effluent quality, and...as warranted...carbon additions will be increased. This is the basis of the consent order.

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II.

Adding the carbon will cost about six-hundred-fifty thousand dollars for the next year. But there will be no present increase in rates to our customers.

The consent order represents a partial resolution of a suit file last year against the Village of Sauget. The suit alleges in part that wastewate dischaged] into the river is toxic. We deny that that the wastewater is harmful or damaging to the environment.

In fact, the Illinois Pollution Control Board...the tribunal which heard Sauget's challenges to the conditions in its discharge permit...has determined that the toxicity effluent limit in the original discharge permit...is arbitrary and insupportable.

EPA bases its allegations on the limits in our original permit. I know of no treatment facility required to meet those standards at the present time.

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V.

We are working with local industries to identify sources of pollutants at the plant sites. We will work together to reduce and control the output of harmful materials to the water before it reaches American Bottoms.

We are also using two additional aeration basins and we have improved the treatment and handling of sludge produced in the purification process. We have added polymer to enhance primary water treatment.

In closing, I want to say that American Bottoms is not run by unknowing or uncaring people...intent on harming our wildlife or the environment. Our dispute with EPA is an honest disagreement. We believe it can be resolved and that the public interest will be protected.

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