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Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

100 EAST ERIE STREET

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611-3154

312-751-5600

Jill B. Horist
Manager, Public Affairs

312-751-6633
312-751-6635 fax
publicaffairsinfo@mwrdd.org

MEDIA ALERT
December 2, 2009

**MWRD REQUESTED TO STOP WATER FLOW AT LOCKPORT
FOR TODAY'S ASIAN CARP KILL**

Chicago - The flow through the massive Lockport Powerhouse generator on the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal, just above its convergence with the Des Plaines River, was substantially slowed yesterday by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD). MWRD was asked to shut down portions of the powerhouse under the strategic plan developed by the intergovernmental Asian Carp Rapid Response Workgroup to impede the threat of Asian Carp entering the Great Lakes. This action builds the canal level near its limits. The Workgroup, composed of federal and state agencies, has determined that this will help control the flow of their application of the fish poison called rotenone.

As requested by the lead agency, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, MWRD will run the Powerhouse generators at a rate equivalent to 1.6 billion gallons daily flow prior to the application (expected at 6 p.m.). This flow will allow for the most efficient mixing of the rotenone and the antidote applied the following day. MWRD will maintain that flow throughout the operation. It is expected that the rotenone will travel approximately six miles from the drop point and move toward the Powerhouse for about 14 hours, arriving in that location around 9 a.m. on Thursday.

The Workgroup will have collection systems in place to prevent dead fish carcasses from potentially disrupting the generators' trash filter rack. It is estimated that as much as 100 tons of debris may result from the application.

MWRD manages the flow of the canal system to control flooding of the region. These waterways are blocked at the entrance to Lake Michigan by a lock near Chicago's Navy Pier, and the O'Brien lock in the Calumet River near 134th Street in Chicago. Nearly 70% of the canal system flow is effluent discharged from four water reclamation plants managed by MWRD. The Lockport Powerhouse is about 36 miles from downtown Chicago.

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