



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NATIONAL EXPOSURE RESEARCH LABORATORY
CINCINNATI, OH 45268

OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

May 17, 2011

Ms. Dottie-Kay Bowersox
Health Department Administrator
City of Racine
730 Washington Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin 53403

Dear MS. Bowersox

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Al Dufour and I am a Senior Research Microbiologist at the US Environmental Protection Agency's, National Exposure Research Laboratory in Cincinnati, Ohio. Recently, my research colleagues from the National Human and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory and I were funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Program to carry out a study related to the effect of gulls on the quality of Great Lakes beach waters and the health effects in swimmers, and also to determine if good management practices can improve the quality of the beach water.

The purpose of this letter is to seek your approval and permission to carry out the study at Racine's beaches. Your beaches provide an ideal setting for the conduct of our studies. They are well attended by a large number of beachgoers, they have large numbers of gulls, which loaf on the beaches and, most importantly, your beaches are not contaminated by human wastewaters. The foregoing beach characteristics are an absolute requirement if we are to carry out a successful study.

I have included a summary of our proposed research with this letter. However a very brief description of our study plan may be appropriate. The plan is to conduct a study over 16 to 21 day period. The first eight days of the study would occur when gulls are at the beach and the second eight study days would take place when the gulls are excluded from the beach. Our plan is to use a dog or dogs and their trainers each day for the second eight days to exclude gulls from the beach. During the entire 16 day period we will measure the beach water quality using standard methods for E. coli and enterococci. We will also monitor the water for Campylobacter, E. coli 0157 and Salmonella bacteria, all of which are sometimes carried in gull feces. We will also during this 16 day period recruit and enroll participants into the study as they approach the beach. As they are leaving the beach for the day, study volunteers

would be asked, as a part of the study, to give a saliva specimen and answer some questions about their beach behavior and attendance history. They will also be asked to contribute a follow-up saliva specimens at 10 to 14 days and then six weeks after the beach attendance day. Each survey participant will be paid five dollars for their initial saliva specimen and \$10 each for the two follow-up specimens. It is our expectation that we would be able to enroll between 3 and 5 thousand participants into the study.

The beach survey, water quality monitoring, laboratory work, and gull exclusion activities will be the responsibility of EPA's contractor, a company by the name of Westat Inc. This company has been working with EPA since 2003 when EPA first initiated our Beaches Program. Westat usually contacts and hires local community members to fill out the positions of beach survey personnel and water sample collectors. Our experience has been that beachgoers are always more comfortable talking to local people than to individuals from outside the community.

Our study team has been conducting studies of this type since 2003 with great success. Several of our studies were conducted on the Great Lakes in cities such as, Porter, Indiana, Michigan City Indiana, St. Joseph, Michigan and Cleveland, Ohio. All of the local authorities at these cities were pleased with the way our studies were implemented and the manner in which we interacted with the public. They always worked closely with our staff and were well satisfied with the conduct of our studies , as well as, the final reports of our studies.

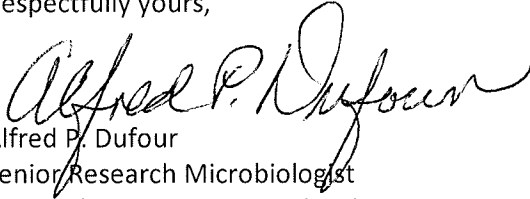
The benefits to Racine of having a study of this type conducted at your beaches are mainly that you will be provided information concerning the relationship between gulls and water quality and whether management practices can eliminate any problems of this type. Racine would also know that, in no small part, you are contributing to the restoration efforts being applied to the waters of the Great Lakes. Lastly, a good part of the funding provided to the EPA would be spent on beachgoers and other members of your community. I estimate that the money spent directly in Racine would be well over \$100,000 during the short period of our study.

We hope that, with your permission we would be able to initiate our study at Racine beaches by the second or third week of July and complete them by the second or third week of August. I'm well aware that you have many responsibilities and that your time is very precious and because of these factors I am somewhat reluctant to ask you that you might expeditiously consider our request for approval to

carry out our proposed study. I do so only because summer is rapidly approaching and there are many elements of our study that must be in place locally even before we get to the actual conduct of our study at the beach. If you have any questions please contact me by telephone or Email and I will answer them immediately. I will be anxiously waiting for your response to our request.

Please note: I have also sent this letter to Mr. Tom Friedel, City Administrator for the City of Racine

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alfred P. Dufour". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

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