City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Water Management

Thomas H. Powers, P.E.
Commissioner

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STATEMENT OF CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSIONER TOM POWERS IN RESPONSE TO WATER STUDY

Chicago water is safe, and meets or exceeds all standards of testing and quality established by the U.S. and Illinois Environmental Protection Agencies which is required by law.

Water safety standards are set forth by the state and federal governments, and we have always been committed to water safety and quality. We are diligent in our testing to ensure we meet these standards for public health and safety.

The federal government currently regulates Total Chromium. We test for it, and are well within prescribed limits set by the USEPA.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is currently evaluating new health effects data on Chromium VI. We expect that evaluation to be completed in late 2011, and we are prepared to respond in a way that protects public health and meets federal and state standards.

Additionally, we are working with the American Water Works Association and the Water Research Foundation on research into Chromium VI levels.

We are dedicated to the public health, and base our treatment and quality analysis on the law and on sound science. We will always make adjustments when new regulations or new research indicates it is appropriate.

This work reflects the longstanding commitment of Mayor Richard M. Daley as a leader and advocate for the protection of the Great Lakes. He established the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, which is made up of mayors and municipal leaders from Great Lakes cities in the United States and Canada who share best practices and information, and advocate for the protection of the Lakes on a national level.

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