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COMMISSION
ON ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY

Executive Director
Office of the Chief Clerk
MC 105, TCEQ
P.O.Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

RFA
CPM
LIT

July 16, 2007 PM 2:48

CHIEF CLERKS OFFICE

RE: Objection to the dumping of over 22 million gallons of treated sewage per month into Cow Bayou by the Orangefield Water Supply Corporation.

Dear Executive Director,

I am in receipt of your Notice of the application for Proposed New Permit # WQ0014772001 by the Orangefield Water Supply Corp. to discharge over 22 million gallons of treated sewage per month into Cow Bayou, which is just yards from my property at 4701 Old Cattle Crossing Rd. off FM 105 near Orangefield. (C. West and B. Garner Surveys). I strongly object to this for the following reasons:

1. Further pollution of Cow Bayou. Any intelligent person knows hardly anyone can do anything right anymore. Every day we are told of planes having bashed into each other on the runway, food products on shelves that can kill us and our pets, big government agencies who are totally incompetant to do their jobs (FEMA, etc.), innocent people are executed or incarcerated due to incompetant, sleeping, or drunken lawyers, expensive engineers who have us build major freeway underpasses BELOW GROUND so they flood 5 ft. deep every monsoon, surgeons who take off the wrong leg, etc., etc. Do you get my drift? Why in the world would you think that we could be confident that this thing could run without human error or techical failure (bad repair job, the computer is down, etc.) and I would be stepping over human excrement on my property. My small visiting grandchildren would be slipping down in it! No, it is NOT acceptable.

Today the television reported that Galveston Bay is infested with the deadly flesh-eating bacteria. A man is dying. How do you think it got there? With the invasion of millions of third world people each year, we will be faced with viruses and bacterias that live thru the water treatment of municipalities. It is grossly unfair to ask me to deal with this, unless you can prove that this water treatment can kill these new lethal bacterias and viruses. If so, you need to call the Disease Center in Atlanta and inform them you have accomplished a miracle.

Over one-half of my property floods after a heavy rain, monsoon, or hurricane.

Cow Bayou is already polluted. A thin film of oil floats on top of the water, apparently due to flooding oil sludge pits of the many oil wells in the area. For years there has been no water skiers or fishing boats. The fish are inedible. COW BAYOU NEEDS TO BE CLEANED UP, NOT FURTHER POLLUTED!

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2. I have a water well on my property. I didn't have the luxury of having water and sewer brought to my property. Pollution of my well with treated sewage is unacceptable.
3. This manner of pollution of the property will substantially lower my property value.

In view of the above, I request that you reconsider the dumping of wastewater into Cow Bayou by Orangefield Water Supply Corp., and I ask for a public meeting about this application.

Pursuant to the Open Records Law, please furnish me with copies of the permit application, your preliminary decision, and the draft permit. Also I would appreciate a map.

Please place me on the permanent mailing list for the Orangefield Water Supply Corp., Permit # WQ0014772001.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Brauer

Bonnie Brauer
Ph. 832.242.2882

Enclosure:

Newspaper clipping regarding flesh-eating bacteria.

cc: Martin L. Mayo, Esq.

Rep. Kevin Brady
420 Green Ave.
Orange, TX 77630

Flesh-eating bacteria puts man's life at risk

July 18, 07

By ALEXIS GRANT
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

A Nacogdoches man who was infected by flesh-eating bacteria while swimming off Galveston, County's Crystal Beach still faces the threat of losing a leg — and possibly his life — despite three surgeries.

Steve Gilpatrick is fighting necrotizing fasciitis, a tissue-destroying disease caused by a bacterium called *Vibrio vulnificus*. The retired oil company marketing consultant

also is suffering from multiple organ failure because the disease has caused a blood infection, his physician said Tuesday.

Gilpatrick, 58, was listed in critical but stable condition.

The bacterium thrives in warm salt water and is most prevalent during summer months. Gilpatrick's wife, Linda, said she and her husband routinely vacation in Galveston each summer.

"I've heard of flesh-eating bacteria, but it always seemed so far away," she said from a waiting room at Galveston's John Sealy Hospital. "It's not. It's here."

Swimmers with compromised immune systems, such as cancer patients or people with liver disease, are most susceptible to the disease. To be contracted through contaminated water, the bacteria need a point of entry, such as an open wound.

Gilpatrick, who is diabetic, had an ulcer on his lower leg that he believed was nearly healed when he went swimming during a fishing trip on July 8, his wife said. His leg became infected three days later and he began running a high fever, spurring them to head for the emergency room.