ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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July 12, 2000

Mr. William F. Abolt
Commissioner
City of Chicago
Department of Environment
30 North LaSalle St., 25th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60602-2575

Dear ~~Mr. Abolt~~ Bill:

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the State of Illinois remain committed to seeking means to improve the air quality in the Chicago region, and we recognize the need to also provide for continued economic growth. As part of our overall program, we have agreed to work with you and others in the Chicago area to evaluate innovative ways to achieve those goals.

After an initial review of the Project XL proposal that you submitted to USEPA and after discussions with your staff, we believe that your proposal has merit and could provide for an innovative approach to achieving the benefits that you outlined. As an agency that may be called upon to provide a certain level of review and oversight associated with your proposal, I believe it would not be appropriate for us to be a co-sponsor. However, I have asked my staff to continue to work with you and to provide technical assistance and expertise.

While we have seen substantial improvements in ozone air quality during the past 20 years, the Chicago area still remains as a nonattainment area. All of us need to continue to evaluate means of improving the air quality to meet the national air quality

standards. Toward that goal, IEPA staff have worked with USEPA, Chicago Department of the Environment (CDOE) and many others in the Chicago area to identify potential measures to further improve ozone air quality. During the past year and a half, we have actively participated in the Regional Dialogue activities and will continue to do so as the various campaigns begin to identify and implement new programs. We intend to work closely with USEPA to determine appropriate credits that can be given for various proposals and alternatives. As our resources allow, we will also work with those proposing the various proposals and assist in the implementation of the control measures.

Sincerely,

Thomas V. Skinner
Director

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