



Illinois Department of  
**Natural Resources**

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor  
Sam Flood, Acting Director  
One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
<http://dnr.state.il.us>



**Illinois Environmental**

**Protection Agency**  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276  
Phone: 217/782-3397  
[www.epa.state.il.us](http://www.epa.state.il.us)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 26, 2007

**CONTACTS: Marcelyn Love (DNR)**

(217) 558-1542

**Chris McCloud (DNR)**

(217) 558-1540

**Maggie Carson (IEPA)**

(217) 558-1536

**Jill Watson (IEPA)**

(312) 814-0778

## **State announces settlement agreement in Sugar Creek environmental damages case**

### ***State awarded \$25,000 for natural resource restoration and educational projects***

SPRINGFIELD – The State of Illinois has entered into an agreement that will help restore the natural resources along Sugar Creek that were injured by an April 2001 gasoline spill. The agreement provides that J. McDaniel Transportation, Inc. will pay a total of \$25,000 to the State for natural resource restoration and educational projects.

“It’s always unfortunate in these instances when fish or native plant life are injured. Through this agreement, we’re confident that along with the IEPA, we will be able to sufficiently restore this area, and also assist citizens and the business community in understanding the importance of environmental stewardship,” said Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Acting Director Sam Flood.

“While nothing can adequately replace the natural resources lost in Sugar Creek, this settlement will help the state restore the areas damaged by the gasoline spill,” said Illinois EPA Director Doug Scott.

As a result of a truck accident, gasoline from a tanker truck spilled on Illinois Route 136, located near McLean in McLean County, on April 3, 2001 and entered into a drainageway that carried the waste to Sugar Creek. The spill resulted in the death of fish and other aquatic life that extended nearly four miles. While initial environmental remediation was completed, the State of Illinois sought recovery for damages to natural resources not addressed in the immediate cleanup.

-more-

Attorney General Lisa Madigan, on behalf of the IDNR and the IEPA, secured an agreement that will help to restore the resources injured as a result of the gasoline spill. McDaniel will pay the state \$25,000 through the Natural Resource Restoration Trust Fund that will help fund various natural resource restoration projects. These projects will be detailed in a Restoration Plan available for public review and comment later this year.

“My office works vigorously to ensure that the laws designed to protect the environment are enforced,” Madigan said. “In addition, we assist the IDNR and the IEPA in working with those involved in incidents like this to help in restoring areas that sustain environmental damage.”

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency are natural resource trustees for the State of Illinois. The agencies have specific regulatory powers and work together to ensure the protection of Illinois citizens, as well as the state’s air, groundwater, soil, lake, streams, and other natural resources. Recovery for natural resource damages is different than traditional environmental remediation because it seeks to recover ecological and human use services provided by the environment, and make the public “whole” for the injuries to natural resources. All the recoveries then go to pay for restoration work and associated trustee costs.

###