

# Manville Asbestos Superfund Site Lagoon Leaks into Illinois Beach State Park's State-Dedicated Nature Preserve



In the foreground, you see the swale in the Nature Preserve filled with water connected to the Superfund site's lagoon system industrial canal. Over the years, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has known of the contamination which flowed from the industrial canal, contaminating the Nature Preserve's Dead River and tributary. The elevation difference between the industrial canal and the Nature Preserve is approximately six inches.

As flooding begins during wet seasons, or if the Johns Manville lagoon system fails, contamination of asbestos fibers and metals flood the Nature Preserve. IEPA's own tests show these results. USEPA, IEPA, IDNR, the Nature Preserve Commission, and the Illinois Attorney General's office ignore these stats and refuse to do additional testing. Asbestos fibers subsequently empty into the Dead River and flush into Lake Michigan. They then flow south and wash up on North Shore and Chicago beaches, at least as far south as Chicago's Oak Street beach. Public officials have allowed the Nature Preserve to be a filter for the Johns Manville Superfund site with no fines for the polluter.

**Question:** Why do the regulatory agencies allow the polluter to continue to pollute?

**Answer:** Politics and science don't mix.