

August 1, 2016

Mr. Jose (Joe) E. Almeida  
Chairman & CEO  
Baxter International, Inc.  
One Baxter Parkway Deerfield,  
IL 60015

Re: Baxter Healthcare Corporation NPDES Permit # IL0024074

Dear Mr. Almeida:

On behalf of "Stop Pollution in Long Lake (SPILL)", a group of Lake County, IL residents and/or homeowners, please be advised that we are opposing the reissuance of the NPDES Permit issued to Baxter Healthcare, Inc. located in Round Lake, IL. This permit currently allows wastewater discharge to flow into Squaw Creek and the body of water named Long Lake in northwest Lake County, IL.

In March 2001, the IEPA held a meeting in Round Lake Beach to obtain reaction from residents to Baxter's request to renew its discharge permit. As a result of residents' objections, the Long Lake Improvement and Sanitation Association (LLISA) met for several months with Baxter representatives. Baxter requested at these meetings that due to the remote location of the public sanitary sewers in the region, and the capital outlay required, alternative options be considered. The enclosed Press Release dated 7/18/02 outlined the specific actions to be taken by Baxter, i.e. the treated wastewater was to be used for irrigation, and during winter months, the water was to be retained in a storage pond. This plan was never put into effect by Baxter, and for yet another 15 years, Long Lake has been the recipient of more than 250,000 average gallons/day of treated industrial wastewater. This discharge is totally unacceptable, and we expect Baxter take the necessary steps and investment to connect to a public sanitary sewer without delay.

We expect Baxter Healthcare to connect to a public sanitary sewer for the following reasons (not allinclusive):

- 1) Repeated and numerous EPA violations as noted on the EPA website
- 2) Nearby availability of publicly-owned and monitored sanitary sewers in Lake County
- 3) Treatment and discharge of non-residential waste
- 4) Noncompliance with the agreement with the Long Lake Improvement and Sanitation Association (LLISA) as noted in Baxter's Press Release dated 7/18/2001 (attached)
- 5) Lack of transparency due to self-reporting by Baxter with inability to frequently monitor the activities, processes, and discharge from this facility.

As noted in your corporation's 2014 Sustainability Report, Baxter-Owned Wastewater Treatment Systems "typically do not have access to regional or municipal wastewater treatment systems." (p. 59)

However, in the case of the facility in Round Lake, IL, close proximity to the public wastewater treatment facility is now a reality. We trust that you will choose to operate Baxter Healthcare, Inc. with high regard for our environment, especially our local water supply.

All Long Lake homeowners connected to the public sewer many decades ago. Certainly Baxter, an industrial user, should no longer continue as an exception. We would appreciate hearing from you to let us know that specific action will be taken to ensure a public sanitary sewer connection prior to Baxter's NPDES permit expiration date in June 2018.

Sincerely,

David Brooks  
Paige Fitton  
Jennifer Sundberg on behalf of S.P.I.L.L.

[www.stoplonglakepollution.org](http://www.stoplonglakepollution.org)  
Email: [stoplonglakepollution@gmail.com](mailto:stoplonglakepollution@gmail.com)

Enclosure – Copy of Baxter Press Release – July 18, 2002

Copies to:

Alan Keller, Manager, Permit Division, IEPA  
Kurt S. Stimpson - Lakes Region Sanitary District  
Katrina Phillips and Cindy Skrukud - Sierra Club (Illinois Chapter)  
Craig Taylor and Michael Warner, Stormwater Management Commission, Lake County  
Bonnie Thompson Carter, Tom Weber, Terry Wilke, Linda Peterson, Lake County Board  
Daniel A. MacGillis - Mayor of Round Lake  
Richard Hill - Mayor of Round Lake Beach  
Linda Lucassen - Mayor of Round Lake Park  
Gary Swick - President – Friends of the Fox River  
R.J. Ringa - Long Lake Improvement & Sanitation Association [www.StopLongLakePollution.org](http://www.StopLongLakePollution.org)  
- SPILL Organization Website

