

Pollution of Rivers Associated with the Great lakes

Pollution of Michigan Rivers, especially those closely affiliated with the Great Lakes, has been a huge problem throughout the years. Even though pollution of the rivers has always been an area of concern, these problems are starting to intensify and are being paid a higher attention to. These high levels of pollution have been caused by elements such as human and animal wastes, runoff such as that from erosion, potentially harmful pathogens, and many other elements. These pathogens in the surface water can cause a variety of health problems for people who come in contact with the water such as stomach ailments, rashes, organ failure, and even death (Alexander 2013). Many new causes that have been discovered for the pollution of these rivers are Municipal sewer overflows, polluted storm water runoff, leaky septic tanks, and manure that has drained off of farm fields.

This is a huge problem for the state of Michigan and it is getting worse for many different Michigan Rivers. An assessment of the rivers was done and of the 7,733 river miles that were assessed for pathogen pollution, 98.4 percent were deemed periodically unfit for swimming. Ninety-five percent of the rivers assessed also failed the tests that were done for water quality standards for PCBs and mercury in fish (Alexander 2013). These tests have put the public's attention of these rivers to the forefront and many people now are very concerned about what is going to be done to stop this growing problem. There was even a list created which lists the top most polluted and dangerously growing rivers in the state of Michigan. In order for these rivers to be removed from the list, these rivers have to pass the tests that are done for certain bacteria levels and also show that the adequate steps have been taken to fix these rivers.

The Clinton River is a river in the Southern part of Michigan that has been one of the highest affected rivers on the list for these pollution problems. According to an article in the Macomb Daily, a local newspaper for residents in Macomb County, budget cuts that are being instituted by the federal sequester are making it even harder to improve the quality of Michigan Rivers. These budget cuts would affect the efforts to improve the quality of the Clinton River a bit harder than the other rivers due to the quality of the river as it is. The article goes on to explain that budget cuts have been some of the main reasons that the Clinton River has not been able to be as maintained as it should have been; thus the river being at the polluted levels that it is today (Franz 2013).

For my research paper, I will be exploring the pollution of the Clinton River more deeply. I will first explore how long the Clinton River has been polluted and how the problem originally started. I will then focus on the natural cause that may have contributed to the pollution of the Clinton River. After covering the natural causes, I will explore causes that may have occurred by humans, meaning pollution contributed by things such as septic tanks, companies dumping chemicals into the water, fertilizers and chemicals that may have entered the water by runoff on farmland, and many other causes. Finally, I will analyze how budget cuts and other government funded aspects may have aided in the higher pollution of the rivers and also how it has prevented the cleaning of the Clinton River and the removal of it from the list of most

endangered polluted Michigan Rivers. I feel that the Clinton River is, and has been a cause of great concern in this area for quite some time and thus is a good area to focus on for my paper.

Bibliography

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