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MADIGAN FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES OVER CHICAGO RIVER WATER POLLUTION

Attorney General's Lawsuit Follows Wastewater Release into River in June

Chicago — Attorney Lisa Madigan today announced a lawsuit against four companies for polluting the Chicago River at the construction site of a 54-story skyscraper.

Madigan filed her lawsuit in Cook County Circuit Court against Case Foundation Company, Clark Construction Group LLC, Riverside Investment and Development Company, and 110 North Wacker Titleholder LLC. Madigan alleged the companies violated state environmental laws and contaminated the Chicago River by discharging more than 6,000 gallons of contaminated water into the river at the construction site of a skyscraper at 110 North Wacker Drive in Chicago.

"The Chicago River is not a dumping ground for companies to get rid of contaminated water," Madigan said. "My lawsuit seeks to hold the defendants accountable and protect the water quality of the Chicago River."

Madigan's lawsuit alleges that on June 14, 2018, construction workers at the skyscraper site were observed pumping groundwater containing slurry and sediment directly into the Chicago River. A reporter posted a photo to social media that showed workers pumping a large amount of opaque water into the river, which formed a plume and spread upon hitting the water. Madigan alleges the discharge lasted more than 30 minutes and occurred the same day as the building's official groundbreaking. The lawsuit seeks to prevent further violations of environmental laws as well as civil penalties.

Assistant Attorney General Molly Snittjer is handling the case for Madigan's Environmental Enforcement Division.

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