

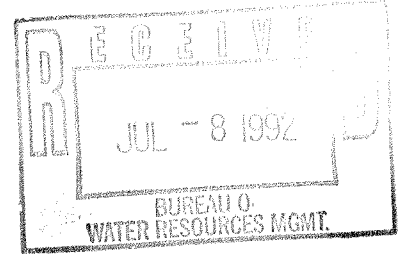
CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

Date: July 6, 1992

File Ref: 3200

To: Bizhan Shiekelosomi WW/SEH

From: Steve Mace WR/SEH *SM*



Subject: Turtle Creek Stream Classification

This memo is in response to your request for clarification of the stream classification of Turtle Creek. Those portions of Turtle Creek in Walworth County are classified as Full Fish and Aquatic Life. Southern District has determined that those portions downstream of the Walworth/Rock County line should be designated as Exceptional Resource Waters, per NR 207.

The reason for the difference in classifications is due to major changes in fish communities and instream habitat. The county line was selected for ease of administration, however the stream character changes abruptly very close to the county line. Several years ago, Paul Pajak and Doug Welch (Fish Management) conducted stream habitat surveys in that portion of stream downstream of the WALCOMET POTW and Walworth County. They concluded that the stream in those reaches is capable of supporting northern pike and other warmwater sportfish species. That portion of Turtle Creek in Rock County is currently managed for smallmouth bass and, in the opinion of Don Bush, the Fish Manager, is one of the best smallmouth fisheries in his district.

With respect to the classification procedure, it is our agency's policy to classify waters based on their potential. This has been the case for almost 15 years and evolved from the philosophy that simply because the resource had some problems, it should not be afforded lesser consideration than those already achieving WQS. Based on instream habitat and those fish currently found there, Turtle Creek in SE District is classified as Full Fish and Aquatic Life.

I hope this answers some of your concerns.

cc. Don Bush SD Ron Martin WR/2
Dave Marshall SD Sharon Gayan SEH

PLEASE Schwartz WR/2