

December 15, 2014

Ms. Corita Waters
National Park Service
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW, Org. Code 2220
Washington, D.C. 20240

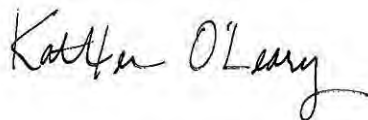
Dear Ms. Waters,

On behalf of the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), I am writing to express our support for designation of the Kankakee River Water Trail as a National Water Trail. We support the designation of a National Water Trail for the entire 133 miles of the Kankakee River from the headwaters of the Kankakee River in rural St. Joseph County, Indiana, to the Des Plaines River in Illinois.

NIPSCO is a natural gas and electricity provided to 20 northern Indiana counties. We are one of the few major industrial landowners along the Kankakee River. We operate the R.M. Schahfer Generating Station located in Wheatfield, Indiana. Over the past twenty years, NIPSCO has been heavily involved in supporting conservation and preservation efforts along the Kankakee River in Indiana. We have been one of the key business partners in the Indiana Grand Kankakee Marsh Restoration Project that has led to over 24,000 acres of land that have been either acquired or restored for conservation purposes. We see the Kankakee River National Water Trail as another positive step forward in the overall effort to advance conservation in the Kankakee River Basin.

Based on the benefits of the creation of the Kankakee River National Water Trail, including increasing community-based recreational opportunities, increased public access, tourism, economic growth, public health improvements, and environmental education, NIPSCO supports the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association and the Illinois representatives who are working together to apply for National Water Trail designation.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen O'Leary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen O'Leary, President