**Section 352.422 Dilution Allowance**

If the PEQ for a parameter is greater than the particular water quality standard, criteria or value for that parameter, the Agency will assess the level of treatment being provided by the discharger. If the discharger is providing (or will be providing) a level of treatment consistent with the best degree of treatment required by 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.102(a), the PEQ derived under Section 352.421 shall be compared to a preliminary effluent limitation (PEL) determined by applying an appropriate mixing zone or a default mixing zone to the discharge. Mixing opportunity and dilution credit will be considered as follows:

a) Discharges to tributaries of the Lake Michigan Basin shall be considered to have no available dilution for either acute or chronic exposures, and the PEL will be set equivalent to the water quality standard unless dilution is documented through a mixing zone study.

b) Direct discharges to the Open Waters of Lake Michigan shall have a default mixing allowance of 2:1 for acute standards, criteria or values and 10:1 for chronic standards, criteria or values if the discharge configuration indicates that the effluent readily and rapidly mixes with the receiving waters. If ready and rapid mixing is in doubt the Agency shall deny any default dilution or mixing allowance and require a mixing or dispersion study to determine the proper dilution allowance. If the discharger applies for more than the default dilution or mixing allowance, it must submit a mixing or dispersion study to justify its request. Whenever a mixing or dispersion study is available, it shall be used to determine dilution or mixing allowance in lieu of the default allowance.