



Clean Water Restoration Act – Midwest State Specific Facts

Illinois: In Illinois, EPA estimates that 56 percent of the streams have no other streams flowing into them, and that 55 percent do not flow year-round. Under varying interpretations of the most recent Supreme Court decision, these smaller water bodies are among those for which the extent of Clean Water Act protections has been questioned. EPA also says that 1,623,780 people in Illinois receive some of their drinking water from areas containing these smaller streams and that at least 823 facilities located on such streams currently have permits under the federal law regulating their pollution discharges. In addition, some 150,118 acres of wetlands in the state could be considered so-called “isolated” waters – water bodies that are particularly vulnerable to losing Clean Water Act safeguards. In view of all of these facts, perhaps it’s not surprising that Illinois joined over 30 states in asking the Supreme Court to uphold broad legal protections for small tributaries and their adjacent wetlands.

Minnesota: In Minnesota, EPA estimates that 45 percent of the streams have no other streams flowing into them, and that 51 percent do not flow year-round. Under varying interpretations of the most recent Supreme Court decision, these smaller water bodies are among those for which the extent of Clean Water Act protections has been questioned. EPA also says that 959,301 people in Minnesota receive some of their drinking water from areas containing these smaller streams and that at least 183 facilities located on such streams currently have permits under the federal law regulating their pollution discharges. In addition, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources estimated that between 12 and 23 percent of the state’s wetlands could be considered so-called “isolated” waters – water bodies that are particularly vulnerable to losing Clean Water Act safeguards. In view of all of these facts, perhaps it’s not surprising that Minnesota joined over 30 states in asking the Supreme Court to uphold broad legal protections for small tributaries and their adjacent wetlands.

Wisconsin: In Wisconsin, EPA estimates that 53 percent of the streams have no other streams flowing into them, and that 45 percent do not flow year-round. Under varying interpretations of the most recent Supreme Court decision, these smaller water bodies are among those for which the extent of Clean Water Act protections has been questioned. EPA also says that 199,457 people in Wisconsin receive some of their drinking water from areas containing these smaller streams and that at least 212 facilities located on such streams currently have permits under the federal law regulating their pollution discharges. In addition, the state estimated that limiting the law’s coverage of so-called “isolated” waters – water bodies that are particularly vulnerable to losing Clean Water Act safeguards – would mean that approximately 1.1 million acres of Wisconsin wetlands would lose federal Clean Water Act protections.