From:	Anthony M
To:	DNR Racine Diversion Comments
Subject:	City of Racine Water Diversion Application Comment
Date:	Wednesday, March 21, 2018 1:00:28 AM
Attachments:	FoxconnWaterComment.docx

Foxconn Water Usage Concerns

With Foxconn obtaining a plan to build a $10 billion plant in Wisconsin there are a host of environmental issues. One big issue is the request for 7 million gallons of water per day going to the area where Foxconn is building their new plant. Adding 7 million more gallons per day would be about a 30% increase in overall water usage for Racine. While that is still inside Racine's daily withdrawal limit it creates the possibility that other companies will try and get high water usages deals. If more and more companies, try to take water from Lake Michigan the surrounding area could end up like the area around Lake Mead. Where people are taking more water out than is being replenished. Lake Mead is running out of water, while Lake Michigan might not be as bad as Lake Mead but the possibility for massive water loss is there.

Foxconn has stated that about 4 to 5 million of the 7 million gallons per day would be returned to Lake Michigan. The problem is in what condition will that water be? Racine has expressed their ability to clean the water to meet environmental regulations and limits. What isn't stated to the public is what chemicals would be in the water leaving the Foxconn plant. Does the current environmental regulations and safety laws protect against all the chemicals used in making Foxconn LCD's? Without knowing what Foxconn uses in their manufacturing process, the public won't be able to determine the environmental impact. Racine hasn't stated that they will update or upgrade their water reclamation system to address the chemicals from the Foxconn plant. If there needs to be an update or upgrade to the current system, who will pay for it? Will Foxconn pay to meet environmental regulations, or will the tax payers of Wisconsin be paying? This would cut into the profitability for the plant, which is calculated to be profitable after 2040 after all the tax subsidies have been paid off.

While the initial request is for the proposed 7 million gallons per day for Foxconn, how will the water demand change when the plan is fully operational. Foxconn states that the plant will provide 13,000 jobs to the surrounding area. Assuming not all job will be filled by people moving to the area, most of jobs could come from people who moved to the surrounding area. Those people are going to require water in their homes. This would increase the amount of water taken from Lake Michigan and the demand on the Racine public water system. If half of the workers move to the surrounding area a few thousand gallons to a couple million gallons per day could be required.

In the initial deal, Foxconn has been exempted from a handful of environmental regulations focused on their new plant. These exemptions allow Foxconn to dump harmful waste in the surrounding area, building in certain areas without requiring a permit, and changing the path of rivers or streams. These were all incentives to make Wisconsin the best location for their new plant. If Foxconn can get exemptions from these regulations, it could be possible they could get exemptions from regulations for water usage and treatment. No company should even get the ability to dump harmful chemicals into the surrounding land as it hurts the local ecosystem. There is always the possibility of rain water run off carrying these dumped chemicals into fresh water bodies, harming that ecosystem.

The government of Wisconsin will go to great lengths to secure Foxconn's new plant. They will throw our beautiful state away just to make a profit. The problem with all of this is that the world only gets one Wisconsin, we only get one Earth. Money can be made in other

ways, ways that don’t harm the environment. It can be impossible to recover an ecosystem after it has been destroyed. The amount of money and time it takes to attempt to recover an ecosystem could out weight the cost to destroy it. If we as a community don’t act to stop possible threats to our environment before they become problems, less damage will be done.

Thank you for reading,

Anthony M

I have also included a work document if the email doesn't display correctly