

Iroquois County: Illinois EPA asks AG's office to take action in fish kill

08/09/2012, 3:41 pm

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The Daily Journal staff report

The Illinois EPA today asked Attorney General Lisa Madigan's office to take enforcement action against Hopkins Ridge Farms and others in connection with the fish kill in late July along 10 miles of Beaver Creek in northeastern Iroquois County.

Hopkins Ridge is a 2,500-hog confinement operation near the Indiana state line, four miles east of Beaverville. Acting IEPA chief John Kim asked that action be taken to halt further irrigation with livestock waste contaminated water -- "the possible cause of the extensive fish kill."

Also named as "responsible parties" were:

- * Lebert Mercier, of rural St. Anne, owner of the irrigated land,

- * Belshaw Milling, of DeMotte, Ind., "which constructed and supports Hopkins Ridge," and

- * Livestock Engineering Solutions, Inc., the consulting engineering firm for Belstra Milling.

The IEPA gave no information about damages.

On July 27, Illinois Conservation Police Officer Holly Vadbunker reported that investigators calculated that 63,177 fish valued at \$28,767.67 had been killed. Further investigation added more to the count.

