

Park problems prevent outdoor enjoyment

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CH. 3 WCIA Anna Carrera

VERMILION COUNTY -- People in Central Illinois are learning something may be wrong with the water in a state park. Pond 6 at Kickapoo State Park is closed. It has been for more than a month. The park's superintendent says the Attorney General shut it down.

There are a few things going on. Initially, the area was closed because of the bridge leading to the pond. It's the only way to get there. Representatives with the state's Department of Natural Resources say they were concerned about how safe the bridge was.

Then, there's also a case going on with Attorney General Lisa Madigan about runoff from the Bungee Mill facility. Environmental experts say the runoff has fly ash. According to the EPA, it has naturally radioactive materials from coal. Fishermen say, whatever the issue, they're sad they can't enjoy one of their favorite spots.

Environmental leaders say the issue could extend even further since contaminants can move downriver. They say this is another reminder coal corporations need to be responsible. IDNR plans to schedule meetings to talk about how to fix the issue, but so far, there's no timeline for when the pond may be reopened.