

# Midwest Environmental ADVOCATES

*pro bono publico*

For Immediate Release  
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## Notice of Intent to Sue Filed Against City of Glendale to Protect the Milwaukee River

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Milwaukee, Wisconsin – At the end of June, residents of the City of Glendale and members of Milwaukee Riverkeeper, represented by Midwest Environmental Advocates (MEA) and Foley & Lardner, filed a Notice of Intent to Sue under the Clean Water Act. This filing puts Glendale on notice that its attempt to “modernize” streets by installing concrete curbs and gutters to replace existing grassy swales will directly violate the Clean Water Act by putting more polluted stormwater into the Milwaukee River.

The Glendale residents each live near or on the 6500 block of Alberta Court where the paving will take place. In March 2011, the City informed residents of the paving project, telling them that existing driveway approaches and curbs will be replaced with concrete. The existing grassy ditches help ease flooding and polluted runoff in the area by acting as natural filters for excess polluted water.

Glendale’s stormwater flows directly to the Milwaukee River, which is listed as an “impaired water body” by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). This label means that the River contains more pollution than is healthy and fails to meet certain water quality standards. This paving project in Glendale will increase the stormwater pollution going into the River, where E.Coli is already a pollutant of concern.

“After flooding problems in Glendale and other communities, you’d think the City would be in favor of removing impermeable surfaces like concrete and adding more permeable surfaces like the existing grassy swales that allow water to filter through the ground,” said MEA Senior Counsel Dennis Grzezinski. “The elimination of the existing drainage swales and installation of concrete driveway approaches and curbing will increase the City’s discharge of E.Coli and other pollutants to the Milwaukee River. This isn’t just a bad idea, it’s against the law.”

The Notice gives Glendale 60 days to respond, initiate settlement discussions, or achieve compliance before MEA and Foley & Lardner file a citizen enforcement action under the Clean Water Act.

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**Midwest Environmental Advocates:**

Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc. (MEA) is a non-profit environmental law center working to protect the public’s right to clean air, clean water, clean government, and responsible land use. See [www.midwestadvocates.org](http://www.midwestadvocates.org) for more information.