

Appendix III:  
NEWSPAPER  
ARTICLES AND  
OTHER SOURCES

# **THE ELKHART TRUTH**

**“FISH KILL FOUND: SEWER  
DISCHARGE MAY BE CAUSE”**

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# Fish kill found Sewer discharge may be

CAUSE Javier Serna <[jserna@etruth.com](mailto:jserna@etruth.com)>Truth Staff *Friday, March 12, 2004*

GOSHEN -- Amid the cloudy blue and green water, thousands of dead, small fish were scattered along the banks of a ditch that enters the Elkhart River, near Rieth Center, on Thursday afternoon.

A walker discovered the fish kill, which isn't the first for the ditch that also parallels the Hydraulic Canal near Shanklin Park. The Elkhart County Health Department has been called several times



*Victims: Two fish lay dead Thursday in the water of a ditch that enters the Elkhart River near the Rieth Center.*

in recent years over the apparently recurring problem and the Goshen Sewer Department has tried unsuccessfully to track what is believed to be a glitch somewhere in the city's sewer system.

"It could be a mile and half away," said John Hulewicz, environmental health supervisor at the health department.

While a storm sewer drains into the ditch nearby, the source of the pollutants could be anywhere, Hulewicz said. The origin would need to be pinpointed while it's actually

happening, and that would be hard to do unless it occurred for an extended time.

Hulewicz said the department has gotten calls about fish kills there a half dozen times in the past 14 years.

"This has occurred in the past with no rhyme or reason," said Hulewicz. "We've tried to get the city to determine where it's coming from, but the storm sewers are so large that its difficult to determine unless you catch it when it's happening. They've tried. It's coming out of the storm sewer somewhere."

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management was on the scene investigating the kill and taking water samples that could take up to a month to be analyzed, spokeswoman Amy Hartsock said. An official from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources was also there.

The colored water was pulled into the Elkhart River's current as the foggy tone diluted and dissipated into the stream.

Hartsock said there was no apparent harm to the river, however.

"They didn't see any obvious signs of impact downstream in the river," said Hartsock.

IDEM reported that the ditch takes on the blue and green tone after storms, but there haven't been any recent storms.

Most of the fish were shiner minnows and creek chubs, although a handful of bluegill also were among the dead.

Officials with the Goshen Sewer Department could not be reached for comment Thursday night.

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