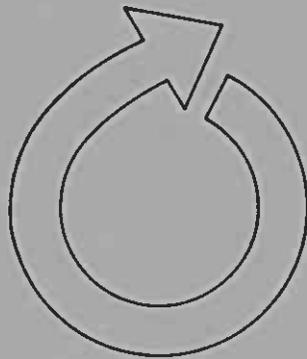


**NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT**

April 1, 1982 through March 31, 1983



**water
quality
report**

northeastern illinois planning commission



Northeastern Illinois is diverse in its land use and complex in its political structure. It has some of the most productive farms on earth — also one of the world's greatest cities. It contains 3,714 square miles of land and 38 square miles of water. It is home to 7 million people, organized in more than 1,250 units of government.

In 1957, following a decade of rapid urbanization in the Chicago suburban area, the Illinois General Assembly created the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) to conduct comprehensive planning for the six-county greater Chicago region.

The Commission has three statutory charges: conduct research and collect data for planning; assist local government; and prepare comprehensive plans and policies to guide the development of the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will.

By necessity, regional planning deals with general development policies not local land use detail. NIPC supports and coordinates county and municipal planning. The Commission has advisory powers only and relies upon voluntary compliance with its plans and policies.



northeastern illinois planning commission

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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

April 1, 1982 through March 31, 1983

May 19, 1983

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS PLANNING COMMISSION
400 West Madison, Chicago, Illinois 60606

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

In January 1979, the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission adopted the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan for Northeastern Illinois. Almost four years of technical investigations and over 300 public meetings had preceded the plan adoption. The plan set forth the capital investment, as well as ongoing management and operations programs, needed to prevail over water pollution control problems. In addition, the plan set forth a concept of continuing intergovernmental cooperation within northeastern Illinois toward the end of clean streams. A system of areawide committees and a countywide water quality committee for each of the six counties was endorsed as a part of the plan.

Following adoption of the plan, delays in state and federal approval and changes in federal funding policy for planning created uncertainties as to the influence in state and federal decisions that such an areawide system would have. Some 120 local governments passed resolutions accepting management responsibilities and two counties established committees and began to carry out the functions of countywide committees. However, the full management system has not materialized.

The passage of the federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1981 and agreements reached between the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Commission, have settled some of the questions of an areawide role on water quality management.

This report describes accomplishments of the areawide water quality planning structure between April 1, 1982 and March 31, 1983. It is hoped that this will be the first of many such annual reports and that each will describe continuing progress in attaining waters that are suitable for agreed upon public uses.

The sections which follow, provide this information:

Section II lists a number of planning efforts completed over the past year both by NIPC at the areawide level and by the Lake and DuPage Countywide Water Quality Committees.

Section III outlines amendments to the Areawide Water Quality Plan considered by the Areawide Water Quality Steering Committee during the year. Most were for specific facilities proposed in the plan. One affected text on the subject of urban stormwater draining to Lake Michigan.

Section IV sets forth a series of unresolved issues which deserve attention in coming months.

Section V proposes a work program for the Areawide Water Quality Steering Committee over the coming year.

Comments and suggestions from readers on any of this material will be most welcome.

SECTION II

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AREAWIDE IN WATER QUALITY PLANNING

It has not been possible to catalog here the accomplishments of all of the 430 management agencies within northeastern Illinois. Short of that, this report will describe what the water quality committee structure established by the adopted plan has achieved in the past year. The report indicates progress in the effort to attack the causes of water pollution. It may bring to the readers' attention information which could be helpful in meeting a local water quality problem.

Areawide Agency Activities

The activities reported in this section affect the entire northeastern Illinois area. They have generally been carried out under the direction of the Areawide Water Quality Steering Committee.

Plan Revision

Probably the most significant planning activity during the past year has been the decision of the Illinois EPA to consolidate the three areawide plans and the IEPA plan for the balance of the state into a single plan document. This consolidation, referred to as the Illinois Water Quality Management Plan, was prepared by the staff of the Illinois EPA. However, Commission staff, the Areawide Water Quality Steering Committee, Water Resources Technical Advisory Committee, the Areawide Water Quality Steering Committee, and the two countywide water quality committees were actively involved.

Commission staff served as a part of working committee with IEPA staff and representatives of the other two areawide water quality agencies in Illinois to draft the document. The result is a plan report of some 120 pages, plus separate maps and tables recording the wastewater facilities which are a part of the plan. The maps and tables are available from the Commission.

The Areawide Steering Committee sponsored information meetings on the Illinois Water Quality Management Plan in each of the six counties and co-sponsored with IEPA the three public hearings on the plan that were held in northeastern Illinois. After reviewing the hearing testimony, the Steering Committee made recommendations to IEPA as to needed revisions to the draft plan. The final document is expected from IEPA very soon.

Nonpoint Sources

When the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan was adopted, it was acknowledged that the effectiveness of different nonpoint source control measures was not well understood. This was true nationally. To correct this, the USEPA funded 22 demonstration projects across the country under a program called Nationwide Urban Runoff Program (NURP). The Commission was chosen to carry out one study, using Lake Ellyn, in Glenn Ellyn, as the study location.

The objectives of the study were to define the sources of urban stormwater pollutants in an urban watershed, to quantify the effectiveness of source control and wet bottom detention storage in managing these pollutants, and to provide guidelines for designing wet bottom detention ponds for pollution control.

Based on the results of this study, it appears that there is little possibility of controlling urban stormwater pollutants at their source. The sources are either too diffuse or not amenable to source control. While street sweeping and catch basin cleaning appeared relatively ineffective in reducing stormwater pollution, wet bottom detention ponds seemed capable of retaining up to 90% of those pollutants that settle out. The design of the detention facilities is important to their effectiveness, with large multiple-use ponds being more effective than smaller on-site facilities.

Combined Sewer Overflows

The Illinois Pollution Control Board recently has released rules which allow for a case-by-case consideration of combined sewer overflows, based on their effect on the receiving stream. During the past year Commission staff have used the NIPC water quality model to assist the consultants to the Aurora Sanitary District and the Elgin Sanitary District in assessing pollutant loads to the Fox River from their combined sewer overflows. The frequency, magnitude and duration of overflow events has been quantified through mathematical simulation of the Aurora and Elgin sewer systems.

Agricultural Erosion

Control of soil erosion is currently the responsibility of individual farmers, through voluntary implementation of appropriate resource management strategies. A program was developed in cooperation with the McHenry County Soil and Water Conservation District for the Woods Creek watershed. The purpose of that effort was to create a feasible plan of action for the farmers within the watershed and to serve as a case study for other areas. Likewise, the report illustrates methods for selecting watersheds for those who allocate conservation program funds and for improving the acceptance and effectiveness of proven control strategies.

Basin Planning

The Stream Reclassification Study for the DuPage River Basin was initiated when it became apparent that, even with the recommended point and nonpoint source controls, designated beneficial stream uses could not be achieved at certain points along the river. With the Illinois EPA now reviewing stream standards basin-by-basin for possible revision, this report can serve as a local resource document.

A key concept of the study was that of classifying streams in terms of the uses basin residents desire for them and the uses which are actually attainable. The management alternatives considered were limited by financial constraints to four point source options: existing municipal facilities, elimination of chlorination, nitrification at selected municipal facilities, nitrification at all municipal facilities. The costs of each strategy were presented, as were the anticipated changes in attainable stream uses along each segment of the stream.

Countywide Water Quality Committee Activities

The adopted Areawide Water Quality Management Plan called for the creation of countywide water quality committees in each of the six counties, to coordinate the activities of the management agencies within each county and to design an imple-

mentation program specific to the county. The Metropolitan Sanitary District was to perform that role for its area of jurisdiction. In DuPage and Lake counties such committees have been established and are operating. This section highlights key accomplishments of those two committees.

Stormwater Regulatory Programs

The adopted plan asked municipalities and counties to enact erosion and sedimentation control ordinances. Likewise, it called upon farmers to reduce agricultural erosion. DuPage and Lake Countywide committees have taken steps to stimulate those actions.

DuPage County staff worked with communities in the Salt Creek Basin to help in the adoption of erosion and sedimentation ordinances. This area was targeted because of an ongoing multi-purpose flood control and recreation program, for which adoption of these ordinances was needed to insure that the area would be eligible for federal assistance.

The county itself revised the County Subdivision Regulation to control soil erosion and sedimentation from urban development in unincorporated areas. On May 25, 1982, the County Board passed an ordinance adopting the revised Subdivision Regulation. Revision of the county zoning ordinance is underway with erosion control in mind.

With respect to agricultural lands, the DuPage Countywide Water Quality Committee assisted the Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District in the development of the District's Long Range Conservation Program. That program, which went into effect January 1, 1983, includes soil erosion and sediment guidelines for agricultural lands.

The Lake Countywide Water Quality Committee conducted a survey of local governments to update the NIPC's 1979 inventory of local programs and ordinances related to nonpoint source control. The update indicates four adopted erosion control ordinances among the eight towns surveyed. Also documented in the Lake County report are structural, non-structural and innovative methods being used to control urban stormwater runoff to Lake Michigan.

Finally, DuPage County has embarked on a comprehensive countywide drainage study. One element of that study will be to locate sites for large detention facilities. It may also include recommendations on how to incorporate water quality improvement considerations.

Sludge Management

In line with other areawide plan recommendations, DuPage County has carried out a Countywide Sludge Management Study involving the county public works department and many of the municipalities and sanitary districts in the county. Each of the participants shared in the funding on a per capita basis.

The recommendation was a continuum of choices, with the least expensive being landfill. It also recommended pilot studies of some of the other options such as land application and composting. The participants then unilaterally undertook the appropriate alternatives for their own purposes, with most choosing land application. Nevertheless, realizing that this did not appear to be a viable long term alternative, they have continued to look for a long term solution.

Water Conservation

The areawide plan called for water conservation programs as a means of reducing wastewater flows through treatment plants. The Lake Countywide Water Quality Committee tailored a model water conservation ordinance that had been prepared by NIPC to fit Lake County needs and distributed Lake County's Model Water conservation Ordinance to all municipalites and management agencies in the county, recommending adoption.

Septic Tank Absorption Fields

To prevent septic tank failures, the Soil Conservation Service published in the spring of 1983 a report entitled Soils Potential Ratings for Septic Tank Absorption Fields in Northeastern Illinois. The report is based on information contained in the soil survey for each of the six counties in northeastern Illinois and it was done in consultation with each of these counties.

Management and Plan Implementation

The DuPage Countywide Committee has prepared an initial management program schedule for implementing the water qaulity plan in DuPage County. The initial program identifies the anticipated schedule for the completion of plan studies, treatment facility construction or expansion, adoption of ordinances, and other program elements. The overall program is based on materials prepared and submitted to the countywide committee by 38 designated management agencies in the county. The individual submittals have been reviewed with respect to potential conflicts and opportunities for program coodination.

In Lake County it is anticipated that the survey of local ordinances and practices, will serve as a basis for producing an implementation plan in the future.

SECTION III

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENTS

The following requests for amendment to the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan (AWQMP) were received during the last year. Areawide Water Quality Management Steering Committee (AWQSC) actions are indicated.

82-WQ-001 Cary/Oakwood Hills Facilities Plan

The AWQSC approved an amendment changing the forecasted service population from 23,600 for the Year 2000 to 19,000 for the Year 2004 and reducing the design capacity of the Cary treatment plant from 2.77 MGD for the Year 2000 to 2.2 MGD for the Year 2004.

82-WQ-002 Interim Amendment to DCPWD Region IX Facilities Plan

The AWQSC approved a temporary Knollwood Treatment Plant sized to treat an average flow of 0.25 MGD and discharge into the Des Plaines River.

82-WQ-004 Correction of MSDGC Salt Creek Facilities Planning Area

The Commission was notified by the MSD that an isolated area of approximately 40 acres in size, located southwest of the intersection of Roselle and Euclid Roads had been considered by the District as contained within their Facility Planning Area, but was not so depicted on their submitted 201 Plan map, and hence, not on AWQMP maps. The correction was approved.

82-WQ-097 Request for a new Point Source Discharge (NPDES Permit) in Frankfort Facilities Planning area.

The AWQSC denied a request for an NPDES permit for a mobile home park in the Frankfort FPA. The AWQSC recommended that the mobile home park route its wastewater flows to the Village of Frankfort and that the development comply with AWQMP stormwater recommendations.

In reaching its decision, the Committee voiced its concerns for the protection of the water quality in Jackson Creek in view of the uncertain reliability of small, privately maintained, residential waste treatment plants in meeting effluent standards.

82-WQ-098 Request for a new NPDES permit in the Lockport Facilities Planning Area

The AWQSC denied Texaco, Inc.'s request for a new NPDES permit for an industrial discharge to the Illinois and Michigan canal. The AWQSC recommended that Texaco route its domestic waste to the City of Lockport's sanitary sewer system and that Texaco also route its oil/water separator effluent to the City of Lockport provided IEPA standards are met and proper maintenance procedures are followed to minimize oil flow into the sanitary sewer system.

82-WQ-099

Village of Gilberts Amendment to its Facilities
Planning Area.

The Committee denied the request to expand the Gilberts FPA to the west and south with the exception of a parcel located along Tyrell Road in Sections 25 and 36 of Rutland Township which had been depicted as already having been annexed by the Village. The request to expand the Gilberts FPA to the east was also denied, except for that portion of the request which would create an FPA line coterminus with the Village of Gilbert's municipal boundary in Sections 19 and 30 of Dundee Township.

82-WQ-102

City of McHenry Amendment Based on McHenry Shores
Facilities Plan

The AQWSC approved the request that the McHenry FPA be divided into two service areas with the southeast portion being served by a new 1.002 MGD plant and the remainder of the FPA serviced by the existing 3.0 MGD plant.

82-WQ-104

Sleepy Hollow Facilities Plan

The AWQSC approved the phased construction of a collection system and routing of Sleepy Hollow flows to the West Dundee treatment plant.

82-WQ-105

Elmhurst Facilities Plan

The AWQSC approved Elmhurst's request for a plant expansion to 8.0 MGD for the year 2005. The Committee also recommended that the City make an effluent quality of 10 mg/l BOD, 12 mg/l SS the goal of the Elmhurst plant and urged the City to commit funds as soon as possible for the implementation of the sewer rehabilitation recommended by the City's Sewer System Evaluation Survey.

82-WQ-110

NSSD Facilities Plan

The AWQSC approved the NSSD request for an amendment to show the design capacity of the Gurnee plant as 19.7 MGD in the year 2000, and the design capacity of the Waukegan plant as 22.0 MGD in the Year 2000. The Committee also urged the NSSD to strive toward the AWQMP goal to eliminate all discharges of wastes or pollutants into Lake Michigan and to take all measures necessary to implement the stated NSSD policy of eliminating all untreated wastewater overflows to Lake Michigan.

82-WQ-121

NPDES permit for the Marengo Estates Mobile
Home Park in the Marengo Facilities Planning
Area

The AWQSC denied a request from the Marengo Estates Mobile Home Park to construct an interim treatment plant in the Marengo FPA. The AWQSC recommended that if the development were to proceed Marengo should provide service. The Committee also noted that the development would result in loss of prime agricultural land and therefore was in violation of the Governor's Executive Order No.4.

83-WQ-001 Village of Frankfort Facilities Plan

The AWQSC approved the expansion of the Frankfort Treatment plant to a Year 2000 design capacity of 1.563 MGD. Minor modifications to the FPA boundary were also approved.

83-WQ-002 Village of New Lenox Facilities Plan

The AWQSC approved the retention of the New Lenox Laraway Road Plant at a Year 2000 design flow of 0.56 MGD and the upgrading of the Central Treatment Plant to serve an average flow of 1.1 MGD.

83-WQ-003 Oak Highlands/Ingall's Park Sanitary District
Facilities Plan

The AWQSC approved the request of the Oak Highlands/Ingalls Park Sanitary District to upgrade and expand the existing 0.25 MGD secondary treatment plant to a 0.61 MGD advanced secondary facility.

83-WQ-004 City of Crest Hill Facilities Plan

The AWQSC approved Crest Hill's proposal to upgrade the existing west sewage treatment plant to a Year 2000 design capacity of 0.80 MGD and to construct a new 1.7 MGD secondary plant, with nitrification facilities, on the Des Plaines River to treat wastewater from the east, plus flows from the Stateville Correctional Center.

The AWQSC was concerned about an apparent boundary dispute with Joliet over service to the Stateville Correctional Facility. This matter still requires resolution.

Lake County request for an Amendment Concerning Urban Runoff to Lake Michigan

Lake County requested that the existing AWQMP recommendation concerning urban stormwater runoff to Lake Michigan from Lake County be modified. Specifically, Lake County requested that the old recommendation

"By July 1, 1983, Lake County and all affected municipalities should implement measures working toward a reduction of BOD in urban stormwater runoffs from separately sewered impervious surfaces of 50 percent of 1976 surface loadings in already urbanized areas and in newly urbanizing areas tributary to the lake.

be changed to:

"By July 1, 1983, Lake County and all affected municipalities should seek to achieve a reduction in BOD in urban stormwater runoff from separately sewered impervious surfaces by 25 percent of 1976 surface loadings in already urbanized areas and in newly urbanizing areas tributary to the Lake."

Lake County cited efforts they had made to clean up their urban stormwater, the lack of cost-effective urban stormwater management practices for application in the urbanized area along Lake Michigan, the financial burden of any interceptor-type plan, and the lack of documented Lake County urban stormwater impacts on Lake Michigan as the reasons for their request.

Objections were raised by the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago. Their representatives expressed concern over any move away from eliminating all pollutant discharges from Lake Michigan.

After much debate, the Commission approved the following new recommendation to replace the old recommendation.

"It is a goal to eliminate all pollutant discharges to Lake Michigan. It will be the objective of immediate urban stormwater controls to reduce pollutant loadings by the maximum extent feasible in both newly developing areas and in existing urban areas.

For newly urbanizing areas, Lake County and all affected municipalities should implement urban runoff control measures demonstrated, individually or in combination, to be at least 50 percent efficient in reducing urban stormwater BOD discharges.

By July 1, 1986 Lake County and all affected municipalities should implement the following measures to reduce existing BOD loads from existing urbanized areas.

- (1) Identify urban stormwater discharge points.
- (2) Evaluate baseline BOD loadings to Lake Michigan from already urbanized separately sewered areas.
- (3) Institute through the county and in cooperation with shoreline communities ordinances to control runoff from materials storage areas.
- (4) Implement practices to minimize de-icing chemical applications consistent with maintaining safe winter driving conditions.
- (5) Apply runoff control measures applicable to newly urbanized areas to redevelopment areas in the existing urbanized portion of the Lake Michigan Basin North.

In addition, NIPC, the Illinois EPA and USEPA should by July 1, 1986 assess the results of NURP, identify Lake Michigan specific water quality problems related to nonpoint source pollution and set objectives for their elimination."

SECTION IV

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

While the areawide water quality management plan introduced numerous subjects requiring further action to improve water quality, recent events have highlighted a few of those. These will be the subject of study and public discussion in the coming program year.

- A number of recommendations in the areawide plan have not been incorporated in the Illinois Water Quality Management Plan. Some of these, with further clarification, possibly should be added to the statewide plan. Others may be of such local import that they should be discussed with certain local management agencies and made a part of local plans. Others possibly are no longer valid. Attention in the past year has been placed on the statewide plan. During the coming year, decisions must be made as to the disposition of the specific contents of the areawide plan.
- As a special part of the areawide plan, twelve basin plans were developed. These basin plans represent the only comprehensive strategy combining facilities plans and nonpoint source management programs. These basin plans are particularly significant as the Illinois EPA reexamines stream standards in these same basins. The status and future disposition of these basin plans must be determined.
- With the new information now available regarding the role and importance of nonpoint sources, the nonpoint control programs recommended in the areawide plan must be reconsidered. Likewise, the assumptions as to the part that nonpoint controls could play in achieving stream standards and associated stream uses must be reviewed.
- The adopted areawide plan set forth a number of recommendations for tying land use controls to water pollution controls. Many of these recommendations have not been certified by Illinois EPA and not incorporated into the statewide plan. The inescapable relationship between land use development and water quality still remains. Further attention must be given to the subject, so that appropriate strategies can be incorporated into the Illinois Water Quality Management Plan.
- The review of stream standards by the Illinois EPA and the Pollution Control Board needs to be publicized and local public sentiment recorded as to what uses are desirable and attainable for the streams in northeastern Illinois.
- Funding questions loom large and have changed markedly since the adoption of the areawide plan. The needed and the available public capital funding for wastewater facilities must be examined in the context of other public finance needs. Likewise, local funding of a continuing water quality planning process within northeastern Illinois must be discussed and settled.
- The regional septage Plan should be reviewed and certain amendments considered in light of several county studies that have occurred since its adoption.

SECTION V

PROPOSED WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT WORK PROGRAM - APRIL 1, 1983 THROUGH MARCH 31, 1984.

The following tasks comprise a suggested areawide water quality management implementation work program for the coming year. Possible funding sources are indicated in parentheses.

- . Publicize the ongoing stream standards review and revision process to the people in northeastern Illinois and survey public opinion on the desired uses for the streams of the region and the willingness and ability of the public to pay for the attainment of those uses. (Local or private foundation, funding pending)
- . Review the current designated uses for Salt Creek and assess the reasons for non-attainment of those uses, the uses desired for Salt Creek by basin residents, and the willingness and ability of basin residents to pay for attainment of desired uses. (Local, funding pending)
- . To begin NIPC's involvement in assessing the water quality and attainment of beneficial uses in the streams and lakes of northeastern Illinois, NIPC is proposing two projects.
- . Assumption of the Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program from the IEPA. This program relies on resident volunteers who sample lake quality on a semi-monthly basis. NIPC will solicit volunteers, train them, store their data, and produce an annual report for each lake monitored. (IEPA funded)
- . A cooperative stream data collection program will be explored with DuPage County treatment agencies. Data on stream quality is currently collected by each point source agency in the region as part of their NPDES permit requirements. The USGS and IEPA also regularly collect stream data. NIPC may be able to assist local waste treatment agencies in organizing a system for gathering all this data, storing it on a computer file, analyzing it, and producing an annual report. DuPage County could be the starting point for what might become a regionwide system. (Local, funding pending)
- . Population forecasts by facility planning area are proposed to assist in evaluating both point and nonpoint water quality management alternatives. (IEPA, Local, funding pending)
- . The results of NIPC's Nationwide Urban Runoff Project (NURP) will be publicized and the technical findings made publicly available. (IEPA, Local, funding pending)
- . An examination of the advantages of regional versus on-site detention facilities is proposed. It is thought that regional facilities have economic, aesthetic, legal, and environmental advantages over on-site facilities. This project would quantify those advantages. (Local, DENR, IDWR, funding pending)
- . NIPC should examine its suggested on-site detention ordinance and other stormwater publications as well as those of such agencies as IDOT and MSDGC to see how they relate to NIPC's and national NURP findings. (Local, currently unfunded)

- NIPC will continue to review facility plans and NPDES permit requests and will begin to review construction permit requests for consistency with the IWQMP. (IEPA funded)
- NIPC will act to mediate conflicts between designated management agencies or private parties requesting amendment of the IWQMP. The vehicle for mediation will be the county water quality coordinating committees where they exist or the AWQSC. (IEPA funded)
- NIPC will prepare a report providing information requested as part of the newly adopted recommendation on Lake County urban stormwater runoff to Lake Michigan recommendation. (IEPA funded)
- A proposal for updating water quality management costs, both current and proposed, should be drafted. (IEPA, Local, currently unfunded)
- The Regional Septage Disposal Plan should be reviewed and amended, as appropriate. (IEPA, currently unfunded)
- The Areawide Water Quality Management Plan should be reviewed and its future use and disposition determined. (IEPA, Local, currently unfunded)
- Information and assistance should be given to designated management agencies in carrying out their water quality enhancement responsibilities. (IEPA funded)
- Preparation of next annual water quality report, with additional information on changes in capital expenditures, and implementation actions taken. (IEPA, Local funded)

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