

Dear Elizabeth Patton-Whiteside,

Since taking office in January, I have fielded numerous phone calls from constituents concerned about the public health issues associated with the sewage leaks in Cahokia Heights.

Not only is the sewer problem unpleasant in terms of the smell, but the leakage, which results from heavy rainfall, is a significant public health issue for Cahokia Heights residents. The spread of bacteria-caused illnesses does not appear to be a coincidence. The presence of raw sewage in people's homes is the likely cause of these illnesses.

But despite numerous reports in the local media and the pleas of residents in Cahokia Heights, the problems and health concerns persist.

My question for you is why has there not been any investigations from your office on the health risks the sewage leaks pose to residents and if your agency is not able to conduct such an investigation why haven't you contacted state officials to ask for help?

What is happening in Cahokia Heights is more akin to what happens in third world countries. There are people getting sick and they need help. Specifically, they need your help. The East Side Public Health District could be the catalyst to providing meaningful solutions to protect the health of residents of Cahokia Heights. I invite you to work with me to help our neighbors in Cahokia Heights.

Sincerely,

Kevin Schmidt  
State Representative  
114<sup>th</sup> District