

# Filling in South Shore Bay

From: **Robert G. Mican** ([rgmican@earthlink.net](mailto:rgmican@earthlink.net))

 [Add contact](#)

Sent:

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Reply-to:

[rgmican@earthlink.net](mailto:rgmican@earthlink.net)

To:

[admin@Save-SouthShore-Bay.org](mailto:admin@Save-SouthShore-Bay.org)

British Petroleum is being highly criticized for its present discharge of 4,925 pounds of solids per day into our lake. With the harsh criticism of this discharge, new studies are underway by BP and other interested people to see what can be done to decrease or eliminate this problem.

Now let's take a look at Friends of the Parks. South Shore Bay extends from 71<sup>st</sup> to 75<sup>th</sup> Streets. Because of the convergence of 71<sup>st</sup> and 72<sup>nd</sup> Streets at the shore line we are actually talking about three city blocks or 3/8ths of a mile. Let's figure out what Friends of the Parks are proposing for the lake.

To make it simple we will figure the volume of material required to fill in the lake 500 feet out from its present shoreline. This is not difficult. Please note that there are 5,280 feet to a mile. Going out 500 feet gives us a water depth of 8 feet. Since we need an average depth calculated from zero at the present shore line to 8 feet at a distance 500 feet out into the water, we can assume the average depth to be filled will be about 4 feet. Wait a minute! The surface of the lake is 5 feet below our present street level! That means that we must fill in the lake to the present water surface level. Then we must go up an additional 5 feet to bring the whole thing up to street level. Oh well, that's not too bad. We will fill in an average of 4 feet to reach the water surface level and then another 5 feet to make everything look right. That is a total of 9 feet to fill in.

All right, here we go with our calculation:

$3/8$  of a mile x 5,280 feet/mile x 500 feet width x 9 feet depth = 8,910,000 cubic feet

That's going to be a lot of dirt and debris going into that fill job. To make things nicer Friends of the Parks will assure us that the fill will be all clean dry sand. Well, that makes it nice, because clean dry sand weighs 100 pounds per cubic foot. Let's see what that means. Here we go again with another calculation!

$8,910,000$  cubic feet (from above) x 100 pounds of sand/cubic foot = 891,000,000,000 pounds of fill material.

For simplification, let's round out the above figure to a simpler 900,000,000,000 pounds. BP is adding 4,925 pounds of solids per day into the lake. Let's round out BP's number to 5,000 pounds per day. We want to see how long it will take the harshly criticized BP to match Friends of the Parks with the present BP contribution of solids to the lake.

$900,000,000,000$  pounds total divided by 5,000 pounds of BP solids per day = 180,000,000 days. It will require BP 180,000,000 days to match Friends of the Parks!

We know that there are 365 days to a year (except for leap years). Let's see how many years it takes to make 180,000,000 days:

180,000,000 days divided by 365 days per year equals approximately 493,000 years.

Friends of the Parks wants to fill in the lake as of yesterday or, better, as of last year. BP will be spending millions of dollars (if not something closer to a billion dollars) to work out their problems to minimize the amount of solid waste going into the lake. At their present rate of discharge it will require BP almost a half a million years to match what friends of the Parks wants to do right now.

For those interested in using exact figures and leap years instead of rounding off as I did to simplify things, it would require BP 495,314.73 years to match what Friends of the Parks wants to do to us.

Robert G. Mican  
2565 East 72<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Chicago, IL 60649-2727  
(773)721-7816  
rgmican@earthlink.net