

Illinois Pollution Control Bd.
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Jan. 9, 2009

PC # 328

PDC Case AS 08-10 -- Postscript Comment

I trust IPCB's decision in Case AS 08-10 will leave means to relieve the Peoria metro area of the water and air pollution of the privately owned and run "hazardous waste landfill" of Peoria Disposal Co. Your decision is crucial to that end.

As has been testified, PDC's landfill directly adjacent to the west side of the City of Peoria and surrounding communities has a dense population of at least 54,000 within 3 miles of the landfill dumping ground-- with many housing tracts abutting it.

And as has also been testified, not only is Illinois one of just 13 states that still has an active toxic waste "landfill," it is the only one with such a landfill that 1) sits immediately upwind of the air a community must breathe as Peorians must -- and 2) sits directly over -- within 50 feet -- of the aquifer from most of this area's water comes!

Yet Illinois' regulations do not even allow the IEPA to take location into account in such siting decisions. And this mountain of toxics has become this region's highest "hill."

Nationally it is just being realized that air pollution is the primary culprit for the greater number of debilitating health afflictions among citizens living near a toxic waste landfill, as research at New York state's Univ. of Albany has ascertained. (In the testimony this writer submitted for Case AS 08-10.)

So new is this that Illinois does not yet even concern itself with, let alone monitor for escaping toxic gases from PDC's hilltop burial site for highly toxic waste, according to the head of the state's air pollution monitoring office here in Peoria!

Yet the matter of this case, electric arc furnace (EAF) steel mill dust, is loaded with a host of volatile toxics that float off into the air, as well as non-volatile toxics. And PDC wants to keep trundling this into its Peoria landfill site to be given a secret treatment, that if it works, would then allow its transfer elsewhere. This is highly specious at the least! What it will definitely do is add to toxic air pollutants emanating into Peoria from PDC.

For the health of this region, PDC's toxic waste site needs to be closed and stringently maintained for *at the least* the 30-year period law now requires. There are other options for locations to apply this "secret" EAF treatment, such as at the plants where the steel is produced. Then it could go anywhere.

Tom Edwards