

Daily Chronicle
Letters to the Editor
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AUG 24 2010

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

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Pat Vary (12 May10) wrote why she voted for the landfill. I submit she should not have voted for it because the risks outweigh the "benefits" (a source of revenue; a waste site for DeKalb). Waste Management (WM) will potentially deliver 206 million tons of waste to Cortland from 17 counties including Cook. During waste decomposition, toxic products will be emitted into the air and the liquid-like "leachate" generated in the landfill. Methane and hydrogen sulfide will be the predominate gases produced, however about 0.5% will be toxic volatile organic molecules observed in other landfills throughout this country. Although most of the gas liberated will be burned via a flare, about 25% will escape into the atmosphere. The combustion process will produce dioxins (polychlorinated dibenzodioxins and polychlorinated dibenzofurans) that have been shown to damage human health and at higher levels cause cancer. Typical landfills also may contain aromatic and chlorinated hydrocarbons, pesticides, pharmaceuticals and pathogens.

Although the concentrations of toxic substances released are low, epidemiological studies have shown an increased incidence of low birth weight infants, fetal and infant mortality, and birth defects in populations living near waste landfills. However, in addition to the above concern, it is well recognized that the best landfill liners used to ensure leachate containment will eventually deteriorate and cause the leachate to be released and potentially contaminate groundwater.

The landfill siting application states that WM will not dispose hazardous waste; however the random inspections (3 per week) and waste identification procedures designed to reduce the possibility won't guarantee hazardous waste from Chicago and collar counties will never enter the site. Slowly but surely, hazardous waste will accumulate at the site. If the landfill will be as assuredly safe as Pat Vary suggests, then, why has WM committed to obtain a pollution liability insurance that covers bodily injury and property damage.

Part of my professional work as a neurophysiologist has been to study the effects of chemical agents and toxic substances on nerve and muscle. Some agents such as chlorinated hydrocarbons can be particularly harmful to humans at fairly low concentrations. Some substances such as dioxins are fat soluble and over time will accumulate in the human body to increase the likelihood of disease. I submit that DeKalb county residents should be concerned about the potential risks of the landfill expansion and join those of us opposed to it to prevent it from occurring.



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*References to the literature used to create this letter are available on request



*Dayly Chronical 5/28/10
DeKalb*

▶▶ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A model for Illinois

To the Editor:

Why can't the governor and General Assembly be more like Ronald Reagan?

Reagan inherited a structural deficit in his first term as California governor. When Reagan realized his proposed 10 percent across-the-board cuts would destroy many programs, he reversed himself and, working with the Democratic legislature, enacted one of the most progressive income taxes in the nation.

Now that's a model Illinois could follow.

Dave Rathke
DeKalb

Landfill risks great

To the Editor:

DeKalb County Board member Pat Vary wrote why she voted for the landfill (Guest View, May 12, 2010).

I submit she should not have voted for it because the risks outweigh the "benefits" (a source of revenue; a waste site for DeKalb).

Waste Management will potentially deliver 206 million tons of waste to Cortland from 17 counties, including Cook. During waste decomposition, toxic products will be emitted into the air and the liquid-like leachate generated in the landfill. Methane and hydrogen sulfide will be the predominate gases produced, however, about 0.5 percent will be toxic volatile organic molecules observed in other landfills throughout the country.

Although most of the gas liberated will be burned via a flare, about 25 percent will escape into the atmosphere. The combustion process will produce dioxins that have been shown to damage human health and, at higher levels, cause cancer. Typical landfills also might contain aromatic and chlorinated hydrocarbons, pesticides,

pharmaceuticals and pathogens. Although the concentrations of toxic substances released are low, epidemiological studies have shown an increased incidence of low birth weight infants, fetal and infant mortality and birth defects in populations living near waste landfills. However, an addition to the above concern, it is well recognized that the best landfill liners used to ensure leachate containment will eventually deteriorate and cause the leachate to be released and potentially contaminate groundwater.

The landfill siting application states that Waste Management will not dispose hazardous waste; however, the random inspections (three per week) and waste identification procedures designed to reduce the possibility won't guarantee hazardous waste will enter the site. Slowly but surely, hazardous waste will accumulate at the site. If the landfill will be

as assuredly safe as Pat Vary suggests, then, why has Waste Management committed to obtain a pollution liability insurance that covers bodily injury and property damage.

Part of my professional work as a neurophysiologist has been to study the effects of chemical agents and toxic substances on nerve and muscle. Some agents, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons, can be particularly harmful to humans at fairly low concentrations. Some substances, such as dioxins, are fat soluble and over time will accumulate in the human body to increase the likelihood of disease.

I submit that DeKalb County residents should be concerned about the potential risks of the landfill expansion and join those of us opposed to it to prevent it from occurring.

Richard Hahin
Cortland

Street Program highlights Sycamore's work

As both treasurer and mayor, I have given an annual update of services and projects from the past year and taken a look at ongoing and upcoming City of Sycamore improvements.



GUEST VIEW

Ken
Mundy

and other stakeholders to encourage commercial, retail, office, research, industrial, and work force retention, development, and expansion in Sycamore and the area.

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