

To: The Illinois Pollution Control Board.
James Thompson Center
100 W Randolph, Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

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CLERK'S OFFICE
SEP 16 2010
STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

From: Dean Maddy
1009 Pleasant Street
Dekalb, Illinois 60115
815-756-3744

PC# 11

Regarding: Case# PCB2010-103 (proposed expansion of the landfill in Dekalb County).

I am writing as a concerned citizen and resident of DeKalb, Illinois, whose health and fortune is affected by DeKalb County's existing landfill, and is opposed to its massive expansion.

Please consider the following when making your decision:

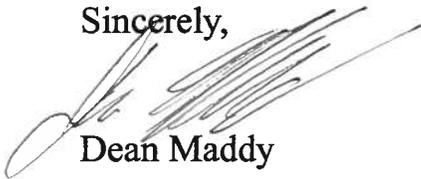
- 1) The landfill is in an officially designated earthquake zone, next to a grade school. Given the huge scale and long operating life of the proposed expansion, along with future earthquakes, it seems inevitable that toxins, germs, vermin, insects and their eggs, (coming from around 75% of the entire population of Illinois), will harm the health of many living in densely populated nearby areas. It is difficult to imagine a more robust array of pathways for the spread of disease. A new dump site could be chosen for inter-regional dumping, which would drastically reduce damage to human health, by placing the site where the nearest densely populated area is several miles away. One can instantly find such sites in abundance, simply by looking at a map of Illinois.
- 2) Scientific testing for the poison gas H₂S has been performed. Test results have been wildly inconsistent as you probably have seen, and public confidence in the safety of the landfill is shaken. While the severity of H₂S levels is not understood by science, there is no scientific consensus or standard for acceptable levels of the gas pertinent to the developing children who play and go to school nearby this landfill.
- 3) Harsh odor *IS ITSELF* pollution. I have been overwhelmed by the harsh odor from this landfill. Mental distraction and loss of appetite are the two most common results which I've sometimes suffered. Whether this odor pollution causes damage which is physiological or psychosomatic, the damage can only increase with massive landfill expansion. By choosing a site for dump expansion which is a few miles from arterial roadways and dense population centers, this problem could be drastically affected.

- 4) People are pattern-seeking creatures who often think by simple association. During the proposed operating life of this expansion, a significant percentage of our entire national population will drive past this landfill sooner or later, because it directly borders one of our nation's main arterial roads. Interstate travelers would perceive Illinois, and DeKalb especially, as “dirty”. One is at times bowled over by odor pollution from this landfill while passing the exit sign to Dekalb/Sycamore, and a negative association could not be more strongly made, between the foul stench and our community. I believe it would be easy to underestimate the damage which this expansion's *odor* pollution would do to the reputation, prestige and commerce of Illinois, and especially to DeKalb. One can imagine a sales executive choosing a different location for a conference, or a carload of interstate travelers choosing to continue on to Iowa for a hotel and meal, after experiencing this obnoxious smell. University admissions must surely be affected too. Expansion will surely worsen the effect. Much has been made about the “broken windows effect” in urban planning. Blight begets bad behavior and a loss of community pride, which in turn begets more blight, and so on. The interstate toll access, which is one of our greatest assets, is very near the dump. A megadump would partially destroy the natural value this area holds for the community, and for the state of Illinois.
- 5) The process which has brought us to the cusp of expansion approval has been unfair to local citizenry in many ways. The host agreement was approved by the county board without public knowledge. The default mode of this agreement is that expansion would become binding and irreversible, unless the county board changed their mind, and actively moved to stop it. The public has consistently been given the impression that expansion is effectively a *fait accompli*, and that no alternative is possible. The gag order placed on county board members reinforced this impression, because the board members, shorn of their usual responsibilities as democratically elected representatives, now assumed a purely judicial role, responsible only to specific set-piece criteria, prior to the final vote. It was as if we were told that the ship set sail already, and the public hearing were held solely to decide what color to paint the smokestack. Further, the mayor of Cortland agreed to take 1 million dollars for the town, in return for his agreement not to oppose landfill expansion. Waste Management promised to distribute funds to various local institutions, contingent on passage of landfill expansion, prior to final vote by the county board. The purpose of judicious distribution of these funds, appeared intended to influence public policy, prior to public awareness of the details of this expansion.
- 6) The Cortland Township town hall meeting held to vote on expansion of the landfill was heavily attended. Perhaps 5 or 10% of the entire population of this township was present. The people's opposition (by vote) to landfill expansion was

virtually unanimous, and expressed with robust conviction. Had these people known any details about the expansion during the time of the hearings at Kishwaukee college, many surely would have attended.

But why all this damage? Couldn't landfill expansion be made where toxins, decaying organic matter, germs and living vermin are not so near to school children and dense populations? Couldn't garbage be placed outside of a designated earthquake zone? Couldn't odor pollution be concentrated where it has minimal effect on health, commerce, community reputation (and development), and simple creature happiness? Looking at a map of Illinois, one can easily discern numerous sites more suitable for a gigantic landfill, than the one proposed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Maddy", written over a white background.

Dean Maddy