| BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD | | | | |
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| PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, | | | | |
| Petitioner, | | | | |
| vs. No. PCB 94-373 | | | | |
| WAYNE BERGER AND BERGER WASTE | | | | |
| MANAGEMENT, INC., | | | | |
| Respondent. | | | | |
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| Proceedings held on August 21, 1998 at 9:00 a.m., | | | | |
| at the Olney Public Library, 400 West Main Street, | | | | |
| 5 Olney, Illinois, before the Honorable Kathleen M. | | | | |
| 16 Crowley, Hearing Officer. | | | | |
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| Reported by: Darlene M. Niemeyer, CSR, RPR CSR License No.: 084-003677 | | | | |
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| 11 | On behalf of Respondent. |
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1 EXHIBITS

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1 PROCEEDINGS

- 2 (August 21, 1998; 9:00 a.m.)
- 3 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Okay. Good morning.
- 4 This is the fourth day of hearing being held by the
- 5 Illinois Pollution Control Board in our Docket PCB
- 6 94-373, People of the State of Illinois versus Wayne
- 7 Berger and Berger Waste Management, Inc.
- 8 Again, no members of the public were in attendance
- 9 at any point yesterday and none are in attendance
- 10 today. We have Mr. Berger and Counsel, his Counsel
- 11 and Counsel for the State present today.
- 12 Is there anything that we need to attend to before
- 13 we resume with Mr. Berger?
- 14 MR. BENOIT: I think yesterday the Hearing Officer
- 15 required me to bring copies of the photograph that was
- 16 previously entered into evidence as Respondent's 50.
- 17 I would like the record to reflect that I am providing
- 18 the attorneys for the State and the hearing -- well, I
- 19 guess you don't need one -- with a copy.
- 20 MS. MENOTTI: Excuse me. Respondent's 50?
- 21 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Respondent's 50, yes.
- 22 MR. BENOIT: I believe that is right. That's the
- 23 only preliminary matter I have.
- 24 I would like to continue with my direct of Mr.
- 25 Berger.

- 1 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Fine.
- 2 (The witness resumed the stand.)
- 3 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Again, we will remind
- 4 you that you are under oath, Mr. Berger.
- 5 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 6 DIRECT EXAMINATION (continued)
- 7 BY MR. BENOIT:
- 8 Q I believe yesterday when we concluded the
- 9 hearing for the day you had testified about a couple
- 10 different individuals or companies approaching you
- 11 regarding buying your landfill or the landfill and
- 12 trash hauling business. We are going to pick up on
- 13 that train of thought.
- 14 A Okay.
- 15 MR. BENOIT: I would like the record to reflect I
- 16 am showing Mr. Berger Exhibit R23.
- 17 (The witness reviewing document.)
- 18 Q (By Mr. Benoit) I will start by asking you
- 19 the question, did you, in fact, enter into any
- 20 agreements regarding the selling of the landfill?
- 21 A Yes, I entered into an agreement.
- 22 Q You have R23 before you. What is R23?
- 23 A Well, it is a real estate optional agreement.
- 24 Q And what date was that agreement entered
- 25 into?

- 1 A I don't think it has it on here.
- 2 Q If I may, it is on the very first paragraph
- 3 of the first page.
- 4 A September the 27th, 1991.
- 5 Q And can you describe generally the terms of
- 6 that real estate option agreement, R23?
- 7 A Well --
- 8 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Relevance. How does
- 9 this relate in any way to the allegations in the
- 10 complaint?
- 11 MR. BENOIT: This is going to go to show how it is
- 12 that Mr. Berger ended up keeping the landfill open
- 13 past September 12th of 1992.
- 14 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Continue.
- 15 THE WITNESS: Well, this Mike Johnson of Terra
- 16 Tech Corporation, he said he would take care of half
- 17 of the expense to get these wells put in and whatever
- 18 needed to be done to get whatever -- well, to get
- 19 the -- I guess they had to put in so many wells in
- 20 order to get the -- to get it revised so that they
- 21 could put more trash in the landfill. They was
- 22 wanting to --
- 23 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Well, I guess what I am
- 24 asking is --
- 25 MR. BENOIT: And, again, I would request that the 541

- 1 Hearing Officer allow me a little latitude as far as
- 2 leading questions. I think it is apparent that --
- 3 MS. MENOTTI: Ms. Hearing Officer, objection. It
- 4 is his witness. It is his client. He is not allowed
- 5 to lead his own client. That rule of evidence is
- 6 absolutely positively clear. He has established no
- 7 basis for why he should be allowed to lead his own
- 8 witness.
- 9 MR. BENOIT: The rule is not absolute. I think
- 10 that the Hearing Officer has observed the witness.
- 11 The only reason that I would want to lead is on such a
- 12 thing as this. I mean, everybody has a copy of this
- 13 option agreement. It says what it says. In order to
- 14 move things along -- I think it is apparent from the
- 15 observation of the witness that this might take quite
- 16 some time if he is forced to summarize, you know, the
- 17 terms of this agreement and to make a coherent record.
- 18 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: For that purpose you may
- 19 have some latitude to lead the witness. The State is
- 20 certainly free to renew its objection when we get into
- 21 matters perhaps of more substance than leading a
- 22 witness through an option agreement.
- 23 MS. MENOTTI: Ms. Hearing Officer, can I also
- 24 suggest, then, too, that if you are going to allow him
- 25 to lead that he be limited in the testimony, because 542

- 1 if he is going to admit this into evidence, the
- 2 document is going to speak for itself. There is no
- 3 reason to go into extensive testimony regarding it.
- 4 If he is going to be allowed to lead his witness
- 5 through, then I think his examination should be
- 6 limited.
- 7 MR. BENOIT: I think --
- 8 MS. MENOTTI: He can't have his cake and eat it,
- 9 too, Madam Hearing Officer.
- 10 MR. BENOIT: Could I add one point? I think the
- 11 State's witnesses, in particular, the inspector, sat
- 12 down and read everything out of her inspection
- 13 report. We sat through all of that. This is a
- 14 similar type of thing except what I am asking the
- 15 Hearing Officer to recognize is that Mr. Berger does
- 16 not have the ability to, as quickly as the inspector
- 17 did, to look at the notes and say, yes, this is what
- 18 it says. I am trying to make a coherent record, and I
- 19 am asking for a little leeway. I don't see --
- 20 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Thank you. I have said
- 21 I would allow you some leeway. Please continue.
- 22 MR. BENOIT: Thank you.
- 23 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Now, this option agreement
- 24 was entered into between you and Terra Tech, Inc.; is
- 25 that correct?

- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q And Terra Tech Inc.'s president is Michael
- 3 Johnson?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q And Terra Tech offered to purchase the land
- 6 where the landfill is for \$85,000.00 under this
- 7 option; is that true?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. That is not clear from
- 10 the face of the document. Improper leading question.
- 11 You said that you would allow him to lead --
- 12 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I don't have the
- 13 document in front of me. I can't --
- 14 MS. MENOTTI: This is not an offer in any way,
- 15 shape, or form.
- 16 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: To speed this along --
- 17 MR. BENOIT: Here it is. No, that is not it.
- 18 (Ms. Menotti passed the document to the Hearing
- 19 Officer.)
- 20 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: It does appear to be
- 21 clear from the face of the document.
- 22 MS. MENOTTI: It does not say it is an offer. It
- 23 says it is an option and it is an agreement. He is
- 24 saying that Terra Tech -- didn't Terra Tech offer.
- 25 That is not what Terra Tech offered. This is a signed 544

- 1 agreement. He is mischaracterizing the document.
- 2 MR. BENOIT: Again, I think the document will
- 3 speak for itself. I am just trying to lay the --
- 4 MS. MENOTTI: Then you don't need to go through
- 5 extensive testimony with the document. The document
- 6 will speak for itself. The Board will have this in
- 7 front of them.
- 8 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow this to
- 9 continue. But please be concise.
- 10 MR. BENOIT: Okay.
- 11 Q (By Mr. Benoit) As part of the option
- 12 agreement, did Terra Tech agree to begin development
- 13 of a revised groundwater monitoring program including
- 14 the installation of wells required by the EPA?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 MS. MENOTTI: May I state an objection for the
- 17 record that Mr. Berger cannot testify to the state of
- 18 mind of Terra Tech. He can testify to what his
- 19 understanding of the agreement is, not what Terra Tech
- 20 intended.
- 21 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I don't recall that
- 22 there was any indication of state of mind in that
- 23 answer to the question.
- 24 I will allow Mr. Benoit to continue.
- 25 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Was the option agreement 545

- 1 effective -- hold on a second.
- 2 Was the option agreement effective until after
- 3 September 18th, 1992?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 MS. MENOTTI: For the record, the State would like
- 6 to note that the witness is using -- is reading off of
- 7 an agreement that has not been entered into evidence.
- 8 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: That's correct.
- 9 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Is that your signature on
- 10 page two of the -- of R23?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q Is R23 a true and accurate copy of the real
- 13 estate option agreement?
- 14 A Yes.
- MR. BENOIT: I move that it be entered.
- 16 MS. MENOTTI: It is hearsay. It is hearsay and
- 17 not subject to any hearsay exclusionary rules.
- 18 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I am sorry?
- 19 MS. MENOTTI: I am sorry. Hearsay exception.
- 20 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I don't understand why
- 21 it is hearsay.
- 22 MR. BENOIT: I don't understand either.
- 23 MS. MENOTTI: Pardon me?
- 24 MR. BENOIT: I don't understand why it is hearsay.
- 25 MS. MENOTTI: It is a statement made other than at 546

- 1 the time of hearing and it is being offered for the
- 2 truth of what the contents of the document hold.
- 3 That's hearsay. Absent some exception, it is not
- 4 admissable into evidence.
- 5 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I am admitting the
- 6 document. Again, the Board's hearsay rules are
- 7 somewhat relaxed -- evidence rules are somewhat
- 8 relaxed. This would appear to be a business record,
- 9 given the nature of Mr. Berger's business at the
- 10 time.
- 11 (Whereupon said document was admitted into
- 12 evidence as Respondent's' Exhibit 23 as of this
- 13 date.)
- 14 MS. MENOTTI: For the record, the State would note
- 15 that Mr. Benoit has failed to establish that this is
- 16 kept in the ordinary course of Mr. Berger's business
- 17 operation, which is required for admission as a
- 18 business record.
- 19 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Continue.
- 20 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Was this record kept in the
- 21 normal course of your business? Did you keep this
- 22 record?
- 23 A Yes.
- 24 MR. BENOIT: I move for admission again on R23.
- 25 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: It has already been 547

- 1 admitted.
- 2 MS. MENOTTI: You still have not met -- that still
- 3 doesn't establish the requirement that it be kept in
- 4 the ordinary course of the business. Ordinary course
- 5 of business is defined in the case law and in the
- 6 rules as being day-to-day business.
- 7 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: The document has been
- 8 admitted.
- 9 MR. BENOIT: I would like to show the witness
- 10 R21.
- 11 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: We have already admitted
- 12 R21.
- 13 MR. BENOIT: Right.
- 14 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Is the Michael E. Johnson,
- 15 who is listed as the contact person on R21, the same
- 16 Michael E. Johnson who signed the real estate option
- 17 agreement with you?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Leading. Mr. Benoit has
- 20 not been given latitude with regard to Respondent's
- 21 21.
- 22 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow it.
- 23 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Who is listed as the contact
- 24 person on R21?
- 25 A Michael Johnson.

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- 1 Q Prior to March 18th, 1991, can you give me an
- 2 estimate as to how many cubic yards of waste were
- 3 deposited in the Berger Landfill each year?
- 4 A Around 6,000 yards.
- 5 Q Why does -- I believe yesterday that you read
- 6 in paragraph two of page two of R21, and it indicated
- 7 that one year after you sent R21 in, you would be
- 8 accepting approximately 100,000 cubic yards of waste
- 9 per year?
- 10 A Yes, that's right.
- 11 Q Have you ever accepted that much waste in a
- 12 year?
- 13 A No.
- 14 Q Why did you sign and submit R21?
- 15 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Asked and answered.
- 16 This is already in the record from yesterday. There
- 17 is no need to continue to waste time.
- 18 MR. BENOIT: I don't think I asked --
- 19 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Continue. I don't
- 20 recall that question being asked.
- 21 THE WITNESS: Would you repeat, please.
- 22 Q (By Mr. Benoit) If you never had in the past
- 23 accepted 100,000 cubic yards of waste and you didn't
- 24 have any plans to, why did you sign and submit R21
- 25 stating that you planned on accepting 100,000 yards of

- 1 cubic waste?
- 2 MS. MENOTTI: Objection to the form of the
- 3 question. He has not established that he didn't
- 4 intend to accept 100,000 cubic yards of waste.
- 5 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow the
- 6 question.
- 7 THE WITNESS: This Terra Tech, they was planning
- 8 on buying the landfill. So they was needing this
- 9 extra yardage in order to buy the business. They
- 10 wouldn't have went through this optional agreement
- 11 without doing this here.
- 12 Q (By Mr. Benoit) So the landfill had to be
- 13 open or they were not going to sign the option
- 14 agreement?
- 15 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Leading.
- 16 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Please continue.
- 17 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 18 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Did Terra Tech satisfy the
- 19 terms of the option agreement?
- 20 A No.
- 21 MR. BENOIT: I think the witness is
- 22 misunderstanding my question. I would like to
- 23 rephrase it.
- 24 Q (By Mr. Benoit) I think you testified that --
- 25 or I summarized -- that one of the terms of the 550

- 1 agreement, and I am talking about R23, was to do some
- 2 work regarding a groundwater monitoring program; is
- 3 that right?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 O Did Terra Tech do that work?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q What else did they do after that -- after
- 8 they entered into that option agreement?
- 9 A Well, they planned on...
- 10 Q Did they install groundwater monitoring
- 11 wells?
- 12 A Yes, they installed groundwater monitoring
- 13 wells and they done all of the -- everything that
- 14 needed to be required to send in to the State.
- 15 Q Did they comply with the terms that they pay
- 16 for half of that work?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q Who actually did the groundwater monitoring
- 19 and the work that needed to be done?
- 20 A Mike Johnson of Terra Tech and James
- 21 Johnson.
- 22 Q Where is -- who is James Johnson?
- 23 A He is the guy that -- he is kind of an
- 24 engineer, I would say, or a site planner they call
- 25 him.

- 1 Q Okay.
- 2 A And he made sure, you know, that, like, the
- 3 wells were in the right place and how many wells that
- 4 they needed.
- 5 Q Did he put together the permit?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q Who chose James Johnson to be the engineer?
- 8 A Mike Johnson.
- 9 Q That's Mike Johnson of Terra Tech?
- 10 A Terra Tech.
- 11 Q What was the cost of doing all of this work
- 12 that, according to the option agreement, they were
- 13 going to split with you?
- 14 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. The witness just
- 15 testified that he didn't do the work, that Terra Tech
- 16 did the work.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow him to
- 18 answer since it was a split cost arrangement.
- 19 Go ahead.
- 20 THE WITNESS: \$38,000.00.
- 21 Q (By Mr. Benoit) And did Terra Tech go ahead
- 22 and pay for half of that?
- 23 A They paid for half, yes.
- 24 Q Then you paid the other half?
- 25 A Yes.

- 1 Q Now, previously you testified that your
- 2 engineers, and this was earlier, on Crawford &
- 3 Whiteside, they had done some work for you to try to
- 4 get a new permit put together, right?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. We have already covered
- 7 this. It is asked and answered.
- 8 Q (By Mr. Benoit) But their efforts to put
- 9 together a permit application were unsuccessful?
- 10 A Right.
- 11 Q But Terra Tech's --
- 12 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Asked and answered.
- 13 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: We did cover all of this
- 14 yesterday.
- 15 MR. BENOIT: Okay.
- 16 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Did the Agency issue a permit
- 17 based on the application submitted by Terra Tech?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q And is that the 1991 permit?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q What were Terra Tech's plans for the
- 22 landfill?
- 23 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. How can he say what
- 24 Terra Tech intended to do with the landfill if he
- 25 doesn't work for Terra Tech? Mr. Benoit has not 553

- 1 established that this witness has any reason to have
- 2 person knowledge of Terra Tech's plans.
- 3 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Were you present when there
- 4 were any conversations, discussions, or plans
- 5 presented as to Terra Tech's intentions regarding the
- 6 landfill?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q What did those plans or conversations or
- 9 whatever lead you to believe that Terra Tech's plans
- 10 were?
- 11 A Well, they were wanting to change the
- 12 landfill to -- so that they would be able to have more
- 13 cubic yards than now. Like, the way it was, they
- 14 didn't have enough space. So they was going to have
- 15 to have more space or, you know, if they couldn't get
- 16 more space to dump trash, you know, they probably
- 17 wouldn't have bought it.
- 18 Q Okay. What kind of landfill was it going to
- 19 be?
- 20 A A special waste.
- 21 Q Did you believe that Terra Tech was going to,
- 22 in fact, exercise the option and purchase the
- 23 landfill?
- 24 A Yes. I thought they were going to purchase
- 25 it, because they spent approximately two or three 554

- 1 years doing the work and had the engineer, James
- 2 Johnson, do all of the work in order to buy it.
- 3 Q Did you say two or three years?
- 4 A I think two or three years there after he
- 5 started working on it.
- 6 Q Okay. I thought yesterday we talked about --
- 7 when did you meet this Michael E. Johnson? Do you
- 8 recall?
- 9 A I believe -- well, it is hard to say. Maybe
- 10 1991. It is kind of hard to remember all of that.
- 11 Q Yes, it has been quite some time. Do you
- 12 recall -- well, do you recall any meetings with local
- 13 officials, county officials, regarding Terra Tech's
- 14 plans?
- 15 A Yeah, we had a -- yes, we had a meeting
- 16 August of 1992. I think it was August the 5th that we
- 17 had a meeting.
- 18 Q Okay. And do you recall who was at that
- 19 meeting?
- 20 A It was Michael Johnson, James Johnson, and I
- 21 think Dan Reesly (spelled phonetically). I am not for
- 22 sure on the other one.
- 23 MR. BENOIT: I am going to show the witness what
- 24 has been marked as R60.
- 25 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Can you tell me what that 555

- 1 is? Is that a letter sent to you?
- 2 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Leading.
- 3 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow it.
- 4 Q Is that a letter sent to you on August 6,
- 5 1992, from James R. Johnson?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q Does that letter contain or have attached to
- 8 it minutes of an August 5th, 1992 meeting?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q Do the minutes or the memo of the meeting
- 11 discuss a meeting --
- 12 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Leading. Mr. Berger can
- 13 tell the Hearing Officer what the minutes say.
- 14 MR. BENOIT: Okay.
- 15 THE WITNESS: Well, we just had a meeting to
- 16 explain about the site. It was about site planning
- 17 for this landfill.
- 18 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Okay. Did you receive that
- 19 letter?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q And was that letter kept in the regular
- 22 course of your business?
- 23 A Yes.
- 24 MR. BENOIT: I move to have it admitted.
- 25 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. It is a hearsay 556

- 1 statement made out-of-court by the declarant and is
- 2 not available to be cross-examined right now. And Mr.
- 3 Berger's regular course of business was to take trash
- 4 and dispose of it. How minutes to a county meeting
- 5 become kept in the course of his regular course of his
- 6 business has not been established.
- 7 MR. BENOIT: I think that it is --
- 8 MS. MENOTTI: He is not the keeper of the records
- 9 for the county, and it has not been properly
- 10 authenticated.
- 11 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I am going to admit it.
- 12 Could you articulate again the number, please?
- 13 MR. BENOIT: It is R60.
- 14 (Whereupon said document was admitted into
- 15 evidence as Respondent's Exhibit 60 as of this
- 16 date.)
- 17 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Do you know how long Terra
- 18 Tech continued to work on their plans to possibly
- 19 purchase the landfill?
- 20 A It was in 1993. 1992. But I don't know
- 21 exactly the date or the time, but it had to be after
- 22 August the 6th of 1992.
- 23 MR. BENOIT: I have misplaced R59 with the yellow
- 24 sticker. I am going to show the witness R59.
- 25 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Do you recognize R59? 557

- 1 A Yes.
- 2 O What is it? Is it a December 3rd 1992 letter
- 3 addressed to Edward Bakowski of the IEPA from James R.
- 4 Johnson?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q Is this the same James R. Johnson who is the
- 7 engineer that prepared the 1991 permit?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q Does it indicate that a copy was sent to you
- 10 at the bottom?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q Did you receive this letter?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q Did you keep this letter, and not necessarily
- 15 this copy, but an almost identical letter all except
- 16 for the fact that this one is dated file stamped, in
- 17 your files?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 MR. BENOIT: I move that be admitted.
- 20 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. First of all --
- 21 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Sustained.
- 22 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Does looking at this letter
- 23 refresh your recollection as to how long Terra Tech --
- 24 MS. MENOTTI: I am going to object. Mr. Berger
- 25 has not said that he could not recollect anything.

- 1 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Correct.
- 2 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Do you know the exact date
- 3 when Terra Tech stopped working on its plans to
- 4 possibly purchase your landfill?
- 5 A I do not know the exact date.
- 6 Q Okay.
- 7 A But it had to be some time after August the
- 8 6th. But I don't know the exact date.
- 9 Q Okay. Does looking at R59 -- could that
- 10 assist you in determining a range of possible dates?
- 11 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Calls for speculation.
- 12 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will let him answer.
- 13 THE WITNESS: Would you repeat, please?
- 14 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Does looking at R59 allow you
- 15 to refresh your memory and allow you to testify as to
- 16 possible dates that Terra Tech was still working on
- 17 its plans to purchase your landfill?
- 18 A They were still working on it, but I don't
- 19 know about the dates.
- 20 Q Okay. So that does not refresh your memory
- 21 then?
- 22 A No.
- 23 Q Okay. Terra Tech never did exercise that
- 24 option agreement?
- 25 A No.

- 1 Q And when did they tell you that they were not
- 2 going to exercise the option?
- 3 A I don't remember them telling me for sure.
- 4 Q Okay. So they never sent you a letter or
- 5 anything?
- 6 A No.
- 7 Q Did they ever directly come out and say we
- 8 are not going to exercise this option?
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q What did you do after they didn't exercise
- 11 the option?
- 12 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. How can he do something
- 13 after something never happened?
- 14 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will let him answer
- 15 the question if he can.
- 16 THE WITNESS: Well, I went ahead operating the
- 17 landfill.
- 18 Q (By Mr. Benoit) How long did you continue to
- 19 accept waste at the landfill?
- 20 A September the -- it was around September the
- 21 20th, 1993.
- 22 Q Can you repeat that?
- 23 A September, I think it was around the 20th, of
- 24 1993.
- 25 Q Okay. From September 18th, 1992 until, as 560

- 1 you testified, September 20th of 1993, and say roughly
- 2 a one year period, how many new trenches did you dig
- 3 and fill at the landfill?
- 4 A No new trenches.
- 5 Q Where did you put the waste?
- 6 A I don't remember the number of the --
- 7 MR. BENOIT: I am showing the witness what has
- 8 previously been admitted as People's 6. I am having
- 9 the witness refer to the diagram on People's 6 that
- 10 indicates where trenches are, including numbers.
- 11 Q (By Mr. Benoit) So your testimony is that you
- 12 didn't dig any new trenches?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q What did you do?
- 15 A We went ahead and filled this 88D.
- 16 Q So you just continued to work on 88D?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q Okay. How much waste did you put in that
- 19 trench between September 18th, 1992, and September
- 20 20th, 1993, when you stopped accepting waste?
- 21 A I would say around 6,000 yards.
- 22 Q Okay. How many acres would that be?
- 23 A That would be --
- 24 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. No foundation. And
- 25 cubic yards are not transferable or whatever into 561

- 1 acres. Acres is an area. Cubic yards is a volume.
- 2 MR. BENOIT: I think the testimony before was like
- 3 how many -- well, maybe not. I mean, if you fill a
- 4 trench -- the testimony was that it was eleven feet
- 5 deep.
- 6 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Rephrase it. Rephrase
- 7 it.
- 8 MR. BENOIT: Okay.
- 9 Q (By Mr. Benoit) How many -- presently, now
- 10 that the landfill is closed, can you estimate how many
- 11 acres of land were used to deposit waste?
- 12 A I would say around seven acres.
- 13 Q And of that seven acres, how much was used in
- 14 this period I was referring to, September 18th, 1992
- 15 to September 20, 1993?
- 16 A I would say approximately a quarter of an
- 17 acre.
- 18 Q Okay. What did you do out at the landfill
- 19 after you stopped accepting waste?
- 20 A Well, I packed it all down and put two foot
- 21 of dirt over the top, two to three foot of dirt. I
- 22 had a person to do this. And then I fertilized it,
- 23 seeded it down.
- 24 Q In the past when you closed other trenches,
- 25 did you use the same procedure?

- 1 A Yes.
- 2 MR. BENOIT: I am going to be needing People's 5.
- 3 Thank you.
- 4 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Now, in Count 3, based on the
- 5 June 24th, 1993 inspection, the State is claiming that
- 6 you failed to compact and cover litter, that there was
- 7 litter at the landfill. Let the record reflect --
- 8 MS. MENOTTI: Is there a question in here
- 9 somewhere?
- 10 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Please continue.
- 11 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Let the record reflect that I
- 12 am showing the witness what has previously been
- 13 admitted as People's Exhibit Number 5. It you could
- 14 just review that for a minute.
- 15 A (Witness complied.)
- 16 Q Do you recall that inspection?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q You were on site that day?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q How many inspectors came out to inspect that
- 21 day?
- 22 A I believe there was four inspectors.
- 23 Q Could you turn to the page on People's 5,
- 24 again, the trench diagram?
- 25 A (Witness complied.)

- 1 MR. BENOIT: Let the record reflect that he is
- 2 looking at the trench diagram on People's 5.
- 3 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Do you see on that diagram
- 4 two areas marked A and B, that were written on that
- 5 diagram by the inspector?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q Are areas A and B correctly identified as far
- 8 as being in the correct trenches in the correct
- 9 location?
- 10 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. The witness did not
- 11 generate this map. This map says it is not to scale.
- 12 You are trying to impeach the exhibit, which is an
- 13 improper impeachment.
- 14 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will let him answer
- 15 the question.
- 16 THE WITNESS: Repeat it again, please.
- 17 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Are areas A and B correctly
- 18 identified as far as being in the correct trenches?
- 19 Are A and B located in the trenches where the
- 20 inspector marked them on that map?
- 21 A Well, that wouldn't be in the correct place
- 22 that -- what she said about where the well was at.
- 23 Q No, I am not talking about the well.
- 24 A This inspection report --
- 25 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I am sorry. He answered 564

- 1 the question that you asked him.
- 2 MR. BENOIT: He answered something about wells,
- 3 but I didn't ask anything about a well.
- 4 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Could you read back the
- 5 witness' answer, please.
- 6 (Whereupon the requested portion of the record was
- 7 read back by the Reporter.)
- 8 MR. BENOIT: I stand corrected. I misspoke.
- 9 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Do you see where area A is
- 10 marked on the map?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q Have you ever deposited waste in that area of
- 13 the landfill?
- 14 A No.
- 15 Q Do you see where area B is identified on the
- 16 map?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q Have you ever deposited waste in that area of
- 19 the landfill?
- 20 A No.
- 21 Q On June 24th, 1993, where were the two
- 22 trenches that the inspector saw during her site
- 23 inspection?
- 24 A Well, the trench that she inspected would
- 25 have to be 88D.

- 1 Q Okay. What direction is that from where she
- 2 indicated on the map that the -- where A and B were?
- 3 A That would be west.
- 4 Q Okay. Now, do you understand that -- and you
- 5 were here -- the inspector claims that she saw litter
- 6 that day?
- 7 A Yes, there was litter.
- 8 Q You agree that there was litter that day?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q Okay. Could you look at the photographs, and
- 11 I think I am referring to photo five. I think the
- 12 photographs are numbered as they go through. Is there
- 13 litter shown on photo five?
- 14 A Yes, there is litter.
- 15 Q Okay. And just based on being out there and
- 16 working on June 24, 1993, did you observe that litter
- 17 yourself?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q And how much litter was there?
- 20 A I would say approximately maybe a Wal-Mart
- 21 bag, oh, maybe pretty close to full.
- 22 Q Can you describe what a Wal-Mart bag is?
- 23 A Probably I would say a foot in diameter and,
- 24 oh, maybe a foot or so deep.
- 25 Q So would you consider that a minor amount of 566

- 1 litter?
- 2 A I would say it would be minor, yes.
- 3 Q For a landfill?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Move to strike.
- 6 Improper opinion. First of all, we have not sustained
- 7 that this witness has worked at any other landfills.
- 8 And second of all, he did not generate the report.
- 9 Third --
- 10 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: We will allow it to
- 11 stand for whatever weight the Board may choose to give
- 12 it based on this witness' experience and his
- 13 qualifications.
- 14 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Do you see a fence depicted
- 15 in photo five?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q What is the purpose of that fence?
- 18 A Oh, this is like -- it would be like -- I
- 19 guess you would call it a secondary fence. I usually
- 20 put it there because that's where I backed up and
- 21 unloaded the trash. And then when you unload the
- 22 trash, you have to unhook the back part of the truck,
- 23 you raise the hopper up and a lot of times you have
- 24 loose trash. So I would try to put that there so it
- 25 would keep the trash close to the pit.

- 1 Q Okay.
- 2 A Or the paper. Sorry.
- 3 Q So in photo five is that fence working as
- 4 designed?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q To catch the litter?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q On June 24th, 1993, were there any other
- 9 fences put up around the landfill to control litter?
- 10 A Yes. There was a fence at the north side of
- 11 the landfill.
- 12 Q Okay.
- 13 A And then also I usually always put a
- 14 secondary fence like where I am unloading.
- 15 Q Okay. I want you to again review the
- 16 inspector's photos, or the photos attached to People's
- 17 5?
- 18 A Okay. Right here.
- 19 Q And I am referring to --
- 20 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. What is Mr. Benoit
- 21 doing? Is he going to direct the witness to
- 22 something? He can direct him. He asked him to review
- 23 the photographs and he is sitting there flipping
- 24 through them for him.
- 25 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Mr. Berger, can you read 568

- 1 through the inspection report and determine which
- 2 photographs the inspector was relying upon or took
- 3 pictures of where she said that there was uncompacted
- 4 waste and inadequate cover?
- 5 MR. GUBKIN: Objection. I don't believe the
- 6 inspector relies upon the photographs to determine
- 7 violations. She relies upon her observations and
- 8 makes a photograph to document that. I think that is
- 9 an improper characterization of the testimony.
- 10 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Mr. Gubkin has correctly
- 11 characterized it.
- 12 Q (By Mr. Benoit) The inspection report states
- 13 that in area A, the area not being worked, there was
- 14 uncompacted and uncovered and inadequately covered
- 15 waste?
- 16 A Right.
- 17 Q Can you explain why that condition existed in
- 18 area A?
- 19 A The reason I didn't get it covered is because
- 20 I had to -- I pumped the water out, but it had too
- 21 much water there. So I had to wait so I could get
- 22 over it with the dirt. I had to pack it down before I
- 23 covered it, and there would be no more trash put in
- 24 this area. I would have put the final cover over it
- 25 without putting anymore trash in it.

- 1 Q It was too wet to cover it?
- 2 A It was a little too wet. I couldn't get my
- 3 dirt put over it at that time. I had to let it dry
- 4 before I could smash the trash down and get it
- 5 covered. And then I would put the -- I would put the
- 6 two foot of dirt over the top.
- 7 Q Did you -- well, I mean, did conditions dry
- 8 out?
- 9 A Yes, later, and I packed her down and I
- 10 didn't put no more trash in there. I covered it up
- 11 and put the two foot of dirt -- I packed her down, put
- 12 the two foot of dirt over the top and seeded it down,
- 13 fertilized it.
- 14 Q How come there were two areas, you know,
- 15 being worked or open, two areas of the same trench at
- 16 that time?
- 17 A Well, this is, like I say, in the
- 18 wintertime. This is a road where I would dump.
- 19 Q Okay.
- 20 A And then in the summertime I wouldn't have
- 21 rock back there, so I would drive back around to the
- 22 other end and dump trash down there.
- 23 MR. BENOIT: Let the record reflect that I am
- 24 showing the witness what has previously been admitted
- 25 as People's 6 or State's 6.

- 1 MS. MENOTTI: Did you say People's 6?
- 2 MR. BENOIT: Yes, People's 6.
- 3 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Count 6 is based on the April
- 4 18, 1994 inspection. It is claimed that you deposited
- 5 refuse in an unpermitted area of the landfill. Again,
- 6 it is based on the April 18, 1994 inspection. Do you
- 7 recall that inspection?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q Is the inspector correct when she states that
- 10 you deposited waste outside the permitted boundaries
- 11 of the landfill?
- 12 A I don't believe she is correct.
- 13 Q Okay. Why do you say that? Why do you think
- 14 that she is wrong?
- 15 A Well, because the well on this map, 107, she
- 16 has that the well is south -- or this map shows that
- 17 the well is south of where she said the well was at.
- 18 Q Okay. Are you familiar with the boundaries,
- 19 the permitted boundaries of the landfill, the area
- 20 where your permit allows you to dispose waste?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q Okay. Are you familiar with the actual
- 23 location of monitoring well G107 or 107?
- 24 A Yes.
- 25 Q And is that monitoring well placed on the 571

- 1 border of the landfill, as indicated on the exhibit
- 2 you are referring to attached to People's Number 6,
- 3 the exhibit with the trenches on it?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q It is located there?
- 6 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. He already answered the
- 7 question.
- 8 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Yes, he did answer the
- 9 question.
- 10 MR. BENOIT: I think the witness is confused. I
- 11 want to ask a few follow-up questions to clarify.
- 12 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. You can't --
- 13 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I am sorry. That is
- 14 more latitude than I can grant you.
- 15 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Did you go out to the
- 16 landfill to determine the location of monitoring well
- 17 G107?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q Where is monitoring well G107 located?
- 20 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. I think we have already
- 21 covered this.
- 22 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: We have covered this but
- 23 minutes ago.
- 24 Q (By Mr. Benoit) On the map you are referring
- 25 to, and it is the map with the -- it is attached to 572

- 1 People's Number 6.
- 2 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I am sorry. I can't
- 3 hear you. You were speaking with your back to me.
- 4 MR. BENOIT: Okay. I am just trying to clarify
- 5 which map he is looking at. He is still looking at
- 6 the map attached to People's Number 6, indicating the
- 7 trenches.
- 8 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Have you ever deposited waste
- 9 in the areas marked 83D, 80D, or 79D?
- 10 A No.
- 11 Q Have you ever deposited waste anywhere south
- 12 of 83D, 80D, or 79D, as indicated on the map?
- 13 A No.
- 14 MR. BENOIT: Let the record reflect that I am
- 15 showing the witness what has previously been marked
- 16 and admitted as People's Exhibit Number 7.
- 17 Q Can you review that for a second?
- 18 A Okay. (Witness complied.)
- 19 MS. MENOTTI: Is there a question pending?
- 20 MR. BENOIT: I am letting him have a chance to
- 21 review the exhibit.
- 22 MS. MENOTTI: I thought maybe there was a question
- 23 pending.
- 24 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I am sorry. I can't
- 25 hear you.

- 1 MS. MENOTTI: I was asking if there was a question
- 2 pending. I thought maybe I missed something because
- 3 we were just sitting.
- 4 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Okay. In Count 6 the State
- 5 alleges that based on an August 25th, 1995 inspection,
- 6 the landfill roads were inadequate. Were you present
- 7 when the inspector said she was on site on August
- 8 25th, 1995?
- 9 A I was not present.
- 10 Q Okay. From earlier testimony, do you
- 11 understand the basis for the charge that the road was
- 12 inadequate?
- 13 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. There was no charge that
- 14 the road was inadequate. He is making it sound like
- 15 it is some kind of like criminal interrogation.
- 16 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow the
- 17 question.
- 18 Please answer, Mr. Berger.
- 19 THE WITNESS: Repeat, please.
- 20 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Do you understand why the
- 21 inspector claims that the road was inadequate?
- 22 A Yes. She said she was not able to drive down
- 23 through there.
- Q Okay. And why did she say that? What was
- 25 the basis for that?

- 1 A Well --
- 2 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. He can't testify to the
- 3 witness' state of mind.
- 4 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Sustained.
- 5 MR. BENOIT: Okay.
- 6 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Are you familiar with the
- 7 condition of the landfill's roads on or about August
- 8 25th, 1995?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q What was the condition of the roads?
- 11 A Well, it was a rock road, and it had grass
- 12 down the center of the road.
- 13 Q Were you able to drive down the landfill road
- 14 on or about August 25th, 1995?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 MS. MENOTTI: Objection.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: That was a leading
- 18 question, but I will allow it.
- 19 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 20 Q (By Mr. Benoit) On August 25th, 1995, could
- 21 the inspector have driven her car down the road if she
- 22 had attempted to?
- 23 MR. GUBKIN: Objection.
- 24 MS. MENOTTI: Objection.
- 25 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Sustained.

- 1 Q (By Mr. Benoit) On or about August 25th,
- 2 1995, what kind of vehicle were you able to drive down
- 3 the road?
- 4 A I drove a pickup truck down the road.
- 5 Q Did you have any problem?
- 6 A No.
- 7 MR. BENOIT: State's Number 5, let the record
- 8 reflect that I am showing the witness People's Exhibit
- 9 Number 5.
- 10 A (The witness reviewed document.)
- 11 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Can you turn about five pages
- 12 into People's Number 5, the page that starts out on
- 13 the top, it says, State of Illinois Environmental
- 14 Protection Agency, narrative inspection report
- 15 document. Do you see that?
- 16 MR. BENOIT: Can I turn to the page for him that I
- 17 am referring to?
- 18 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Yes, please show him the
- 19 page you are referring to.
- 20 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Now, do you see where it says
- 21 general remarks?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q Okay. Can you read the sentence that begins
- 24 at the end of the fifth line?
- 25 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. This is already in 576

- 1 evidence. It does not need to be read into the
- 2 record.
- 3 MR. BENOIT: It is only six words.
- 4 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow you to
- 5 continue. Go ahead.
- 6 Q (By Mr. Benoit) it starts out with the team?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q Could you read that?
- 9 A Yes. The team proceeded to drive on site.
- 10 Only small --
- 11 Q That is all I wanted you to read. Do you see
- 12 any photographs of the road attached to State's Number
- 13 5?
- 14 MR. GUBKIN: Objection.
- 15 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Relevance.
- 16 MR. GUBKIN: The road was not in question during
- 17 this inspection report. I don't know why he is asking
- 18 questions about it.
- 19 MR. BENOIT: I am trying to make a point.
- 20 MS. MENOTTI: We are wasting time.
- 21 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow it. Please
- 22 continue.
- 23 MR. BENOIT: Can I help him try to find it?
- MS. MENOTTI: Is Mr. Berger supposed to be
- 25 reviewing the document or is Counsel going to stand 577

- 1 there and continue to review documents?
- 2 MR. BENOIT: I am going to withdraw this line of
- 3 questioning as far as the exhibit.
- 4 I am going to request a short break.
- 5 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: As we have been going
- 6 for about an hour and fifteen minutes with the same
- 7 witness, I will allow that. I will ask that during
- 8 the break, Counsel, that you consider what you can do
- 9 to move this questioning along.
- 10 MS. MENOTTI: During the break the State requests
- 11 that Mr. Benoit not confer with his client. It is
- 12 improper for him to coach his client, to take a break
- 13 to take his client outside to coach him for further
- 14 testimony.
- 15 MR. BENOIT: I can tell you that as far as
- 16 anything that we have talked about so far --
- 17 MS. MENOTTI: Or anything else regarding his
- 18 testimony. He is on the stand. He is not allowed to
- 19 take a break to confer with his client.
- 20 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Agreed. Please refrain
- 21 from conferring with one another during this break.
- 22 MR. BENOIT: Okay.
- 23 MS. MENOTTI: Thank you.
- 24 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Thank you.
- 25 (Whereupon a short recess was taken.)

- 1 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: We are back on the
- 2 record.
- 3 Mr. Benoit.
- 4 MR. BENOIT: Okay.
- 5 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Count 1 of the first amended
- 6 complaint alleges that you did not provide financial
- 7 assurance for the landfill in the amount of
- 8 approximately \$241,000.00; is that true?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q Did you -- why didn't you provide financial
- 11 assurance in that amount?
- 12 A Because I didn't have the finances to get the
- 13 letter of credit.
- 14 Q Can you describe what happened as far as the
- 15 profitability of the landfill trash hauling business
- 16 after you stopped accepting waste?
- 17 A Well, after I stopped, there was hardly no
- 18 profit mostly.
- 19 Q Were you still going around to these six
- 20 little towns and picking up the trash?
- 21 A No, the -- yes, I was still picking the towns
- 22 up, but I had to haul so far to the landfills. It was
- 23 like -- there was two different landfills, one at
- 24 Fairfield and one at Effingham. They were like 45
- 25 miles away. And that would be at least a 90 mile 579

- 1 round trip without counting running your town. And by
- 2 the time you would pay your expense of running your
- 3 trucks, the mileage, paying your help the extra hours
- 4 for going to the landfill, because it would take two
- 5 and a half hours just to go to the landfill, and that
- 6 cut my profit down to almost nothing.
- 7 Q Do you understand that the figures used to
- 8 calculate the \$241,000.00 financial assurance amount
- 9 consists of closure cost estimates and post closure
- 10 cost estimates?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q Have you already performed most of the
- 13 closure requirements?
- 14 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Relevance. We have
- 15 already determined that this landfill has not been
- 16 certified closed.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow him to
- 18 answer.
- 19 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Have you already performed
- 20 most of the closure requirements required by the 1991
- 21 permit?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q What have you done to --
- 24 A I have put the two foot of cover or three
- 25 foot, and then I seeded it down, put lime on it, put

- 1 fertilizer on it, compacted it.
- 2 Q What does the landfill look like now?
- 3 A Well, it looks just about like a normal part
- 4 of your ground, it is maybe a little higher but it is
- 5 sloped and seeded.
- 6 Q And is it vegetated now?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q In Count 2 it is claimed that you failed to
- 9 submit a significant modification permit. Do you know
- 10 what a significant modification permit is?
- 11 A Well, I guess that would be a quite a bit of
- 12 change in your landfill. It would cost quite a bit of
- 13 money to do that.
- 14 Q Do you know what would be included in a
- 15 significant modification permit?
- 16 A Well, I would say -- repeat that again.
- 17 Q Do you know what kind of information would be
- 18 included in a significant modification permit
- 19 application that the Agency -- that you were required
- 20 to submit?
- 21 A Well, I don't think I would. I would have to
- 22 have an engineer or somebody to do it. I mean, I
- 23 wouldn't --
- 24 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Move to strike. He is
- 25 narrating and there is no question pending.

- 1 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow it to
- 2 stand.
- 3 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Earlier witnesses testified
- 4 that the cost of preparing a significant modification
- 5 application permit could, depending upon the work
- 6 required, cost anywhere in the range from \$30,000.00
- 7 to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Can you afford
- 8 that kind of expense?
- 9 A No.
- 10 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. I don't think that is a
- 11 correct characterization of the testimony that was
- 12 given by Mr. Chappel.
- 13 MR. BENOIT: I --
- 14 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I think that there is
- 15 evidence to that effect presented by various witnesses
- 16 in this record. So I will allow it to stand.
- 17 Q (By Mr. Benoit) In Count 5 it is alleged that
- 18 you failed to submit groundwater monitoring reports to
- 19 the Agency since at least January 15th, 1995; is that
- 20 true?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Madam Hearing Officer,
- 23 could you please direct Mr. Benoit to refrain from
- 24 leading his witness yet again.
- 25 MR. BENOIT: One, I don't understand why she would 582

- 1 object to that question. Two, I think it is clear
- 2 that I am just directing the witness' attention to
- 3 what we are going to be discussing and making a clear
- 4 record.
- 5 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will again state for
- 6 the record that I am allowing Counsel and this witness
- 7 some latitude in the interest of having the record
- 8 contain his explanation for the events that have
- 9 occurred. I am granting this latitude in part because
- 10 the -- this of the several witnesses who have appeared
- 11 is a witness who does not appear to have testified in
- 12 this type of proceeding before, if ever. The witness'
- 13 educational experience is considerably less than that
- 14 of the previous witnesses.
- 15 I am aware that the Board prefers to have a record
- 16 where, if possible, the Respondent is given an
- 17 opportunity to explain his situation. On the other
- 18 hand, I am not willing to entirely throw out the rules
- 19 of evidence that apply to examination of one's own
- 20 witness.
- 21 All of that said, I will allow the witness to
- 22 answer the question, but I do advise Counsel for
- 23 Respondent to bear all of that in mind and bear in
- 24 mind that I cannot continue granting ever and ever
- 25 greater latitude towards this witness. Thank you.

- 1 THE WITNESS: Repeat, please.
- 2 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Did you fail to submit
- 3 groundwater monitoring reports to the Agency since at
- 4 least January 15th, 1995?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q How much did it cost you each year to monitor
- 7 groundwater prior to the issuance of your 1991 permit?
- 8 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Relevance.
- 9 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow him to
- 10 answer.
- 11 THE WITNESS: I would say each quarter it would
- 12 have cost approximately \$100.00, and that would be
- 13 \$400.00 a year.
- 14 Q (By Mr. Benoit) How much each year it cost
- 15 you to monitor groundwater after the issuance of your
- 16 1991 permit?
- 17 A \$15,000.00.
- 18 Q Why did you stop submitting groundwater
- 19 monitoring reports to the Agency?
- 20 A Because I could not afford paying the
- 21 \$15,000.00 per year from the \$4,000.00 a year. That's
- 22 quite a bit a raise in a short length of time.
- 23 MR. BENOIT: Could you read that back, just the
- 24 answer.
- 25 (Whereupon the requested portion of the record was

- 1 read back by the Reporter.)
- 2 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Can you clarify what you are
- 3 referring to in your answer when you said \$4,000.00?
- 4 A I meant \$400.00.
- 5 Q Thank you.
- 6 A Sorry.
- 7 Q Has anyone from the Illinois Environmental
- 8 Protection Agency been out to monitor the water since
- 9 you stopped groundwater monitoring?
- 10 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Relevance. He can't
- 11 testify what the Agency has or has not done.
- 12 MR. BENOIT: Well, I think it goes to are you
- 13 aware of -- I think it goes to the danger.
- 14 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow him to
- 15 answer.
- 16 Q (By Mr. Benoit) To your knowledge, has
- 17 anybody from the Illinois Environmental Protection
- 18 Agency been out to the landfill to monitor groundwater
- 19 since you stopped monitoring?
- 20 A I never have seen anybody.
- 21 Q Okay. Do you know what your net worth was in
- 22 1992, you and your wife's?
- 23 A \$460,000.00, around that.
- 24 Q Can you tell me what your assets consisted
- 25 of, what type of assets?

- 1 A Okay. There was three rental houses, a 100
- 2 acre farm, 43 acres where the landfill is, plus the
- 3 house, a bulldozer, a John Deere 1982. I believe
- 4 there was five trucks and one car. The car was a
- 5 1991, 98 Olds. I had IRAs, my wife and I.
- 6 Q Okay.
- 7 A I think that was around \$70,000.00. I think
- 8 that's about all I can recall.
- 9 Q Would those numbers you just gave me be your
- 10 best recollection of your assets that you can recall
- 11 in March of 1992?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q At that time, did you consider the landfill
- 14 itself to be of value or a valuable asset?
- 15 A I--
- 16 MS. MENOTTI: Objection.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Your grounds?
- 18 MS. MENOTTI: The Respondent has not been
- 19 qualified to give the opinion as to whether the
- 20 landfill was a valuable asset with regard to whether
- 21 something -- what the exact value of it is.
- 22 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: He can testify as to
- 23 whether he considered it an asset, which was the
- 24 question that was posed.
- 25 THE WITNESS: I would say it would be an asset, 586

- 1 because I was still hauling trash to the landfill in
- 2 1992.
- 3 MR. BENOIT: I am going to show the defendant what
- 4 has been marked as R61. It is a personal financial
- 5 statement dated 03-08-96.
- 6 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Do you recognize that
- 7 document?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q What is it?
- 10 A It is a financial statement.
- 11 Q Did you fill that statement out?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q Do you recall why you filled that statement
- 14 out?
- 15 A I think I was borrowing some money at the
- 16 time and had to give a financial statement.
- 17 Q Is that a record that you would normally keep
- 18 in the normal course of your business?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 MR. BENOIT: I am going to move that it be
- 21 admitted.
- 22 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. First of all, it is a
- 23 personal financial statement, so I don't know how he
- 24 could possibly argue that it is kept in the ordinary
- 25 course of the landfill business.

- 1 Second of all, the document is not signed, but it
- 2 is being moved into evidence.
- 3 Third, it is inadmissable under the hearsay
- 4 rules. It is being offered for the proof that all of
- 5 this stuff in this document is true.
- 6 And lastly, there is calculations in this document
- 7 that are made, and based upon the fact that you are
- 8 allowing Mr. Benoit to lead due to the witness' lack
- 9 of expertise, I don't see how we can allow that in
- 10 without adequate foundation. This appears to be
- 11 something that would be in the custody of the bank.
- 12 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Mr. Benoit?
- 13 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Was a signed copy of that
- 14 document given to the bank?
- 15 MS. MENOTTI: That's not the objection. The
- 16 objection is that the copy being sent to the Board is
- 17 not signed.
- 18 MR. BENOIT: I would be willing to just use it to
- 19 refresh his memory as to the assets.
- 20 MS. MENOTTI: It is still hearsay. He has not
- 21 established that these calculations -- who they were
- 22 made by, and they are not subject to
- 23 cross-examination. I bet if I asked the Respondent if
- 24 he did the calculations that he is going to say no.
- 25 It is inadmissable hearsay. It is being offered for 588

- 1 the truth of the matter asserted.
- 2 MR. BENOIT: He just stated that he filled it out.
- 3 MS. MENOTTI: It is a personal financial
- 4 statement. It is not a business financial statement.
- 5 It is a personal financial statement.
- 6 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: In 1996 the --
- 7 MR. BENOIT: Pardon?
- 8 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: In 1996 the landfill was
- 9 owned and operated by Berger Waste Management,
- 10 Incorporated.
- 11 MR. BENOIT: Right.
- 12 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I am not going to admit
- 13 this document.
- 14 MR. BENOIT: Okay.
- 15 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Wayne, can you tell me what
- 16 assets you and your wife owned and what liabilities
- 17 you had outstanding on March 8th, 1996?
- 18 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Relevance.
- 19 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: And the relevance?
- 20 MR. BENOIT: I am trying to establish --
- 21 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: The relevance of this
- 22 particular time, given the fact that we do have other
- 23 financial statements in the record.
- 24 MR. BENOIT: I don't know that we have other
- 25 financial statements in the record.

- 1 MS. MENOTTI: We have tax returns.
- 2 MR. BENOIT: We have tax returns for a limited --
- 3 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I am sorry. Yes. I
- 4 stand corrected. I was thinking of the tax returns
- 5 when I said financial statements.
- 6 MR. BENOIT: Again, the defense is as to certain
- 7 number of the counts in the complaint, that it would
- 8 cause unreasonable hardship to comply. Obviously --
- 9 MS. MENOTTI: How is that relevant in the --
- 10 MR. BENOIT: -- in the nature of financial --
- 11 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow the
- 12 question.
- 13 MR. BENOIT: Do you remember the question?
- 14 THE WITNESS: Just repeat, please.
- 15 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Can you tell me the assets
- 16 and liabilities of you and your wife on March 8th,
- 17 1996 with any certainty? Would it refresh your
- 18 recollection to look at a personal financial statement
- 19 that you filled out on or about that date?
- 20 A I would need to look at the financial
- 21 statement.
- 22 MR. BENOIT: Can the witness review it?
- 23 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I am sorry. I did not
- 24 quite hear the answer.
- 25 THE WITNESS: I need to look at the statement.

- 1 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: All right.
- 2 THE WITNESS: Okay. We have \$90,000.00 for IRAs.
- 3 We have a 1991 Olds.
- 4 MS. MENOTTI: I am going to object to the witness
- 5 reading the document into evidence. If it refreshing
- 6 his recollection and helps him remember, that is
- 7 fine.
- 8 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: There is no question
- 9 pending.
- 10 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Did you get a chance to
- 11 review that?
- 12 A (The witness reviewing document.)
- 13 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Can you answer yes or
- 14 no, Mr. Berger?
- 15 THE WITNESS: Yes, I reviewed it.
- 16 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Did reviewing that document
- 17 refresh your memory?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q Can you tell me what assets and liabilities
- 20 you and your wife Judy had in March of 1996?
- 21 A Well, we had around \$253,000.00 of assets.
- 22 We would have had the house, approximately
- 23 \$100,000.00. We had approximately two rental houses,
- 24 \$35,000.00. We had IRAs, \$80,000.00.
- 25 Q Okay. Anything else?

- 1 A One 98 Olds. It is a 1991 98 Olds,
- 2 approximately \$6,000.00. There were four trucks.
- 3 There were five trucks, I believe around \$80,000.00.
- 4 I think that is about all I can recall.
- 5 Q Okay. I think when you started out did you
- 6 say the net worth was about \$253,000.00.
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q In 19 -- well, you can tell me, if you can,
- 9 what year was it that the corporation was formed?
- 10 A The corporation was formed on July the 1st,
- 11 1993.
- 12 Q And about when was it that the -- or was a
- 13 land trust --
- 14 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Leading. He is putting
- 15 words into the witness' mouth --
- 16 MR. BENOIT: Okay.
- 17 MS. MENOTTI: -- by asking him about the specific
- 18 type of trust.
- 19 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Can you rephrase that?
- 20 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Was a trust formed about that
- 21 same time?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q Was it a land trust?
- 24 A Yes.
- 25 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. It is leading. It is 592

- 1 the same question again. He is putting words into the
- 2 witness' mouth.
- 3 Q (By Mr. Benoit) What type of trust was it?
- 4 A It was a land trust.
- 5 Q As you sit here today -- as we sit here
- 6 today, what assets do you, Wayne Berger, currently
- 7 own?
- 8 A The only assets that I have at this time is
- 9 an IRA, worth approximately \$80,000.00, and the
- 10 landfill, which is worth zero. I think that's about
- 11 all the assets I got. Maybe \$1,000.00 on personal
- 12 property.
- 13 Q Do you own the landfill?
- 14 A The Berger Waste --
- 15 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. He has already answered
- 16 the question and listed the assets that he owns.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will let him answer.
- 18 THE WITNESS: Berger Waste owns the landfill.
- 19 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Okay. Can you recall what
- 20 assets were placed in the land trust in 1993?
- 21 A Could you repeat that again. I want to make
- 22 sure I get it.
- 23 Q Can you recall what assets were placed in the
- 24 land trust in 1993?
- 25 A Okay. One farm, 100 acres. The residential 593

- 1 where I live, the house and buildings and
- 2 approximately nine acres. Approximately six -- I
- 3 believe six rental houses. I believe that's all I had
- 4 in the trust.
- 5 Q Okay. Who owned those assets before they
- 6 were placed in the trust?
- 7 A I would say Wayne and Judy Berger.
- 8 Q As of this week, here now, what is the value
- 9 of the assets you owned plus the value of any assets
- 10 the corporation owns, plus the value of -- strike
- 11 that. In 1993, -- strike that.
- 12 Who owns the car you are driving today?
- 13 A Judy Berger owns the car.
- 14 Q When did she become the owner of the car?
- 15 A I think July the 1st of 1993.
- 16 Q Who owned the car before that date in July of
- 17 1993?
- 18 A I think Judy and I owned it.
- 19 Q Okay. In July of 1993 you transferred your
- 20 interest in the car to Judy?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q And at that time, did you transfer your
- 23 ownership interest and any other assets you owned or
- 24 you and Judy jointly owned to Judy?
- 25 A Yes.

- 1 Q What were those assets? I mean, if you can
- 2 recall?
- 3 A Well, I guess it would be like I said awhile
- 4 ago, the house, the -- repeat, please.
- 5 Q Okay. You testified that in July of 1993 you
- 6 transferred your ownership interest in your car, the
- 7 car you are driving today, to your wife Judy. I am
- 8 asking if there is any other personal property or
- 9 assets which before July of 1993 either you owned
- 10 alone or you and she owned together that you
- 11 transferred into ownership for her only, excluding the
- 12 property that we talked about with the trust?
- 13 A I don't believe.
- 14 Q Okay. As of this week, right now, what is
- 15 the value of the assets you own plus the value of any
- 16 assets the corporation owns, plus the value of the
- 17 assets transferred to either Judy or the trust in
- 18 1993?
- 19 A Okay. Around \$80,000.00 for the 100 acres of
- 20 farmland. Approximately \$65,000.00 where the house
- 21 and landfill is. There is two rental properties. One
- 22 is valued at \$30,000.00. The other one is
- 23 \$18,000.00. That would be \$38,000.00. Around
- 24 \$130,000.00 IRAs. I think around -- I have got like
- 25 \$20,000.00 in a money market and approximately

- 1 \$1,000.00 personal. I believe that -- I think that's
- 2 about everything.
- 3 Q I think you mentioned earlier, you testified
- 4 that there was a car transferred and that's the car
- 5 that you referred to that you are driving today. Do
- 6 you have any idea what it is worth?
- 7 A It is worth probably about \$4,000.00 because
- 8 it has a lot of miles, over 100,000.
- 9 MR. BENOIT: Can you read back -- he said
- 10 something that I didn't catch when I was writing my
- 11 notes down as far as value of the -- I think he called
- 12 it the house and landfill.
- 13 (Whereupon the requested portion of the record was
- read back by the Reporter, at page 595, line 19.)
- 15 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Do you have any liabilities
- 16 or outstanding debts right now?
- 17 A I would say mostly the liability would be my
- 18 wife, and --
- 19 Q Well -- go ahead.
- 20 A Paying her hospital bills that I owe. I owe
- 21 probably like a month.
- 22 Q Do you have some outstanding bills regarding
- 23 that now?
- 24 A Yes, approximately for a month is what I owe.
- 25 Q Okay.

- 1 A Plus the lawyers. I don't know what I owe
- 2 yet on the lawyers. That would be a liability, I
- 3 guess.
- 4 Q I guess that's true. Okay. Are there any
- 5 other -- well, I will strike that.
- 6 Since -- what has been the primary source of your
- 7 income since 1979?
- 8 A The landfill. I mean, not the landfill.
- 9 Picking up the trash, the trash business.
- 10 Q Okay. And from 1979 to 1990, can you give me
- 11 a ballpark figure as far as how much income the
- 12 landfill would generate per year?
- 13 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. How is 1979 to 1990
- 14 relevant?
- 15 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will let him answer.
- 16 THE WITNESS: Well, I would say -- are you
- 17 counting the landfill plus the picking up the trash?
- 18 MR. BENOIT: Yes.
- 19 THE WITNESS: Okay. I would say approximately
- 20 \$40,000.00 or \$41,000.00.
- 21 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Are you presently employed?
- 22 A No.
- 23 Q Why not?
- 24 A Well, I have been busy with this -- with the
- 25 EPA on this issue. And my wife is at Charleston in

- 1 treatment, and I have been up there.
- 2 Q Okay. Once this is behind you, do you intend
- 3 to find employment to generate income?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q How much do you expect in income you could
- 6 generate per year?
- 7 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Speculative. Mr. Berger
- 8 has testified that --
- 9 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will sustain it.
- 10 Q (By Mr. Benoit) What kind of -- given your
- 11 background, and your employment history, and your age,
- 12 what kind of job do you think you could find in this
- 13 area?
- 14 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. That is still
- 15 speculative.
- 16 MR. BENOIT: I think he is -- he is a life-long
- 17 resident of Richland County. I think he would be
- 18 familiar with available jobs.
- 19 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow him to
- 20 answer.
- 21 THE WITNESS: Okay. I would say probably in this
- 22 area I would find probably about \$6.00, probably from
- 23 \$5.00 to \$7.00. So I would say probably \$15,000.00 a
- 24 year.
- 25 MS. MENOTTI: Objection and move to strike. The

- 1 dollar amount is unsubstantiated and is speculation
- 2 unless the Respondent can establish some knowledge as
- 3 to who would hire him and how much those people would
- 4 pay.
- 5 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: That is correct. Would
- 6 you care to develop that information, Mr. Benoit?
- 7 Q (By Mr. Benoit) What are some of the
- 8 employers around here where you could possibly gain
- 9 employment?
- 10 A Well, I went to Wal-Mart awhile back, and
- 11 they would pay \$6.00 an hour, but I haven't heard from
- 12 them. And I think the reason I haven't heard from
- 13 them is because of my age.
- 14 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Move to strike.
- 15 THE WITNESS: At my age --
- 16 MS. MENOTTI: It is irrelevant. That was not the
- 17 question. It is unresponsive. The question was where
- 18 had he looked in the --
- 19 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Correct.
- 20 THE WITNESS: Okay.
- 21 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: We will strike the
- 22 portion after the hourly wage that is being paid by
- 23 Wal-Mart.
- 24 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Is there any other likely
- 25 employers in Richland County?

- 1 A Well, there is Brunswick. Their wages are
- 2 probably \$6.50 an hour. And then there is a Wal-Mart
- 3 distribution center. They start out at about \$8.50,
- 4 but you have to handle heavy stuff so, you know, I
- 5 might not --
- 6 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Move to strike. That
- 7 was not the question. The job --
- 8 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow the answer
- 9 to stand.
- 10 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Are there any other
- 11 employers?
- 12 A Well, there is really not much in this area.
- 13 I mean for my qualifications, you know, that's
- 14 probably about it.
- 15 Q If you -- do you think it is likely or is
- 16 that your plan to get a job at one of these places
- 17 once this matter is resolved?
- 18 A I would say yes, if I stay in this area, you
- 19 know. But I don't know, you know, for sure whether I
- 20 will stay in this area on account of my wife.
- 21 Q So based on those hourly wages, how much
- 22 yearly income would you expect to generate per year?
- 23 MS. MENOTTI: I am going to object to this as
- 24 speculative.
- 25 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow him to 600

- 1 answer.
- 2 MS. MENOTTI: It would be dependent upon a certain
- 3 job.
- 4 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow him to
- 5 answer.
- 6 THE WITNESS: I would say if you was making around
- 7 \$300.00 a week -- I mean, really if you make \$300.00
- 8 you wouldn't clear \$300.00. I would say \$15,000.00.
- 9 Q (By Mr. Benoit) You mentioned I think it was
- 10 yesterday and then again today that your wife is being
- 11 treated for alcoholism and --
- 12 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Relevance.
- 13 MR. BENOIT: This is going again to the expense
- 14 and financial burden and the defense.
- 15 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will let you complete
- 16 the question, and then we will see where it is taking
- 17 us.
- 18 Q (By Mr. Benoit) How much is it currently
- 19 costing you and/or your wife for her treatment?
- 20 A It costs I would say approximately \$700.00 a
- 21 month.
- 22 Q And how long has she been being treated this
- 23 time?
- 24 A Let's see. This is going on the third
- 25 month.

- 1 Q And you said she is in Charleston. Where is
- 2 she at exactly?
- 3 A She is in treatment --
- 4 MR. GUBKIN: Objection. I don't see the relevance
- 5 of that. We have already gotten the costs that are
- 6 related to this.
- 7 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Agreed.
- 8 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Have the people in Charleston
- 9 who are treating your wife given you any idea of how
- 10 long this treatment will last?
- 11 A No, they haven't at this time.
- 12 Q Has your wife been treated for this condition
- 13 in the past?
- 14 MR. GUBKIN: Objection. Relevance.
- 15 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I don't see the
- 16 relevance of that. You have had him testify
- 17 previously to his liabilities. I don't see the
- 18 relevance.
- 19 MR. BENOIT: Okay. I am going to ask again to go
- 20 back to that line of questioning. I need to establish
- 21 that there were previous treatments to --
- 22 MR. GUBKIN: Objection. I believe that the ruling
- 23 has already been made.
- 24 MS. MENOTTI: You have already ruled on it. Mr.
- 25 Benoit is merely wasting our time.

- 1 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I am sorry. No.
- 2 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Do you believe that your wife
- 3 will incur similar or require similar treatment as to
- 4 what she is receiving now in the future?
- 5 MS. MENOTTI: Objection.
- 6 MR. GUBKIN: Objection. That is vague.
- 7 MS. MENOTTI: And relevance.
- 8 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Sustained.
- 9 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Can you provide me with an
- 10 estimate of the legal fees and expenses you have
- 11 incurred as a result of this enforcement action?
- 12 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Relevance.
- 13 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: The relevance is?
- 14 MR. BENOIT: Unreasonable hardship. The same
- 15 thing to the finances.
- 16 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow it.
- 17 THE WITNESS: I would say approximately \$30,000.00
- 18 to \$35,000.00.
- 19 MR. BENOIT: Okay. No further questions.
- 20 MR. GUBKIN: Ms. Hearing Officer, at this time I
- 21 would suggest that we go to break for lunch. I think
- 22 that that will give us time to organize and make
- 23 things go more quickly.
- 24 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I was going to suggest
- 25 that we do that. It is approximately 11:20 now and 603

| 1 | Mr. Berger has been testifying all morning. I would |
|----|---|
| 2 | like to start again at 12:20, if that is agreeable |
| 3 | with everyone. |
| 4 | MR. BENOIT: Fine. |
| 5 | MR. GUBKIN: That is fine. |
| 6 | HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Okay. Thank you. |
| 7 | (Whereupon a lunch recess was taken from 11:20 a.m |
| 8 | to 12:30 p.m.) |
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1 AFTERNOON SESSION

- 2 (August 21, 1998; 12:30 p.m.)
- 3 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: We are back on the
- 4 record after a lunch break.
- 5 The People will cross-examine Mr. Wayne Berger.
- 6 CROSS EXAMINATION
- 7 BY MR. GUBKIN:
- 8 Q Mr. Berger, I am going to try to take these
- 9 subject by subject so that things will go a little bit
- 10 more smoothly. I would like to talk first about some
- 11 of the operational violations that Mr. Benoit was
- 12 asking you about.
- 13 You stated that sometimes litter went as far as
- 14 Mr. Cantrell's house; is that correct?
- 15 A Yes, at times, you know, it will fly over the
- 16 fence.
- 17 Q Okay. Could you tell me what the surface
- 18 area of cell 88D is?
- 19 A I would have to --
- 20 Q I can give you an inspection report, but I
- 21 don't believe --
- 22 A -- have some kind of note.
- 23 Q You said your trenches -- we have talked a
- 24 little bit about how wide and how deep they are.
- 25 A I need sort of a map to --

- 1 Q You stated before that you had filled about a
- 2 quarter acre of 88D; is that correct?
- 3 A Yeah.
- 4 Q But you don't know what the full acreage of
- 5 any one cell is?
- 6 A No, I don't. I mean, that's just a rough
- 7 estimate.
- 8 Q Can you give me a rough estimate of the
- 9 acreage of 88D?
- 10 A I would say a quarter, probably a quarter of
- 11 an acre.
- 12 Q Okay.
- 13 A Around that.
- 14 Q Okay. Thank you. I will show you now
- 15 State's Exhibit Number 5. It is one of the inspection
- 16 reports. The only questions I have for you on that --
- 17 oh, I am sorry. I will give you the marked exhibit
- 18 and not this copy.
- 19 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Number 5.
- 20 MR. GUBKIN: Yes, please. Okay. Here it is.
- 21 Q (By Mr. Gubkin) You didn't mark that
- 22 inspection report, did you?
- 23 A No.
- 24 Q You are not the inspector for that report,
- 25 are you?

- 1 A No.
- 2 Q You don't know what Sheila Williams was
- 3 thinking when she was doing that inspection, do you?
- 4 You don't think for her, do you?
- 5 A No.
- 6 Q You can't claim that you know what she
- 7 actually saw when she was out there, can you?
- 8 A No.
- 9 Q So you can't really say that she marked it
- 10 improperly, can you?
- 11 A I would say she marked it properly.
- 12 Q Okay. In that -- when Mr. Benoit was talking
- 13 to you about that report and you said something about
- 14 uncovered refuse in a box marked A on the map of the
- 15 trenches in there, you had said that it was too wet on
- 16 that date to take care of that.
- 17 I am going to ask you to flip to the front page of
- 18 Exhibit Number 5 of that inspection report.
- 19 A (Witness complied.)
- 20 Q And tell me, just for the record, what is the
- 21 date that is listed on that inspection? It should be
- 22 near the top somewhere.
- 23 A It has got 06-24-93.
- 24 Q And below there there is a line on that page
- 25 that says weather. Do you see where I am talking 607

- 1 about?
- 2 A Let me look here.
- 3 Q It is right above where it says type of
- 4 operation, which is in bold?
- 5 A Yes, I see.
- 6 Q Okay. Could you read for me what was the
- 7 weather on that date, how it was recorded?
- 8 A It has got sunny and 88 degrees.
- 9 Q Okay. Thank you. Isn't it true, Mr. Berger,
- 10 that you had stated in your deposition that you had
- 11 put refuse outside the permitted boundary?
- 12 MR. BENOIT: I am going to object unless you refer
- 13 to where you are reading from in the deposition.
- 14 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Excuse me. You object
- 15 on --
- 16 MR. BENOIT: Where is he referring to in the
- 17 deposition? I guess I object that without knowing
- 18 where he is referring to, he may be misstating what
- 19 the deposition says.
- 20 MR. GUBKIN: Well, I haven't stated --
- 21 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will let the witness
- 22 answer the question.
- 23 MR. GUBKIN: I am sorry? You said you would let
- 24 him answer?
- 25 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Yes. 608

- 1 THE WITNESS: Okay. Please repeat.
- 2 Q (By Mr. Gubkin) Do you remember stating in
- 3 your deposition that you had put refuse outside the
- 4 permitted boundary?
- 5 A Yes, I did, but I went down and --
- 6 Q Okay.
- 7 A -- I looked at it later, and I found out
- 8 different.
- 9 MR. GUBKIN: I would like to object to everything
- 10 after --
- 11 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: We will strike that
- 12 portion, yes.
- 13 MR. GUBKIN: Thank you.
- 14 Q (By Mr. Gubkin) You said something about the
- 15 steps you have taken to close your landfill during
- 16 your direct testimony. But your landfill is not
- 17 certified closed, is it, Mr. Berger?
- 18 A I guess it wouldn't be by the EPA rules.
- 19 Q You haven't left compacted clay on the
- 20 landfill, have you?
- 21 A No.
- 22 Q You have not done the groundwater monitoring,
- 23 have you?
- 24 A No.
- 25 Q You have not provided financial assurance 609

- 1 either, have you?
- 2 A No.
- 3 Q You have not submitted revised cost
- 4 estimates, have you?
- 5 A No.
- 6 Q In regards to groundwater monitoring, Mr.
- 7 Berger, you had others test and send groundwater
- 8 monitoring reports for you, didn't you?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q And you stated during your direct examination
- 11 that you didn't look at those reports before they were
- 12 sent; isn't that correct?
- 13 MR. BENOIT: Objection. I think he is misstating
- 14 what he stated.
- 15 MR. GUBKIN: I believe if we read the testimony he
- 16 had stated that he didn't remember seeing them. He
- 17 never signed them before they went out.
- 18 MR. BENOIT: Okay. Go ahead. He might be right.
- 19 THE WITNESS: No, I didn't. I never seen them.
- 20 Q (By Mr. Gubkin) Okay. So you never actually
- 21 yourself did any of the work for groundwater
- 22 monitoring, did you?
- 23 A No.
- 24 Q You never oversaw it to make sure it was
- 25 being done correctly, did you?

- 1 A No.
- 2 Q Okay.
- 3 A But these people --
- 4 Q Okay. Now, Mr. Benoit had asked you a
- 5 question whether the Illinois EPA had done any
- 6 groundwater monitoring. But it is not their job to do
- 7 groundwater monitoring at your landfill, is it?
- 8 A I don't really know. I don't really know
- 9 after, say, 1993.
- 10 Q Well, it was still your landfill at that
- 11 time, wasn't it, Mr. Berger?
- 12 A Right.
- 13 Q And according to the permit that you had it
- 14 required you to do the groundwater monitoring, didn't
- 15 it?
- 16 A Right.
- 17 Q It was your choice to start this landfill
- 18 business, wasn't it, Mr. Berger?
- 19 A Right.
- 20 Q And it was your choice to continue beyond
- 21 September 18th of 1992, wasn't it?
- 22 A Yes, I guess.
- 23 Q It was also your choice to stop taking waste
- 24 in 1993. I can't remember the exact date, but
- 25 whenever it was, it was your choice to stop collecting 611

- 1 waste to bring in to your landfill, right?
- 2 A Yes, that was 1993 that I stopped, I
- 3 believe.
- 4 Q Okay. Now, in regards to Terra Tech, you
- 5 said you were considering selling the business to
- 6 Terra Tech. You also state that you don't know what
- 7 Mike Johnson with Terra Tech does; is that correct?
- 8 A Well, I think he is in like to advanced
- 9 waste.
- 10 Q But you don't know for sure what kind of
- 11 business he does?
- 12 A Well, not for sure.
- 13 Q But you were going to sell your landfill to
- 14 him without knowing what he actually did?
- 15 A Yes, because he wanted to buy it.
- 16 Q You didn't get the permits changed into the
- 17 name of Mike Johnson or Terra Tech, did you?
- 18 A Not yet, but they were working, trying to.
- 19 Q But you never did get those permits changed
- 20 over? They are still in your name, aren't they?
- 21 A As far as I know.
- 22 Q I would like to show you Exhibit R21. That's
- 23 the attachment two, the notice form for existing
- 24 landfills required to notify by March 18th, 1991. On
- 25 the second page, I would like to you state for the 612

- 1 record what the signature is at the bottom of that.
- 2 Whose signature is that, Mr. Berger?
- 3 A That has got Wayne Berger.
- 4 Q And the line under that says, name, title.
- 5 What does it say there, Mr. Berger?
- 6 A It says Wayne Berger, owner.
- 7 Q It doesn't say that the corporation owns the
- 8 landfill there, does it, Mr. Berger? It says you do,
- 9 doesn't it?
- 10 A Yes. I don't see it on there where it has
- 11 got it.
- 12 Q Okay. Thank you. You entered into a real
- 13 estate option agreement with Terra Tech, correct?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q I would like to show you that. It is Exhibit
- 16 R23. Take a moment to look at that if you want to,
- 17 Mr. Berger.
- 18 A (Witness complied.)
- 19 Q It is an option agreement isn't it, Mr.
- 20 Berger?
- 21 A That's what it says on here.
- 22 Q There is no indemnity clause in there, is
- 23 there, Mr. Berger?
- 24 A Now, what do you mean by indemnity, please?
- 25 Q An indemnity clause would be where, in this 613

- 1 case, Terra Tech would pay for things if you got in
- 2 trouble for it, basically. Is that a -- I hope that's
- 3 a good enough working definition.
- 4 MR. BENOIT: I am sorry. Can you repeat that
- 5 definition?
- 6 MR. GUBKIN: You can define it for him yourself if
- 7 you want to.
- 8 MR. BENOIT: It is not my question.
- 9 Q (By Mr. Gubkin) Basically you don't have any
- 10 agreement in there that would protect you if the
- 11 agreement fell through, did you, Mr. Berger? You
- 12 didn't put that in there?
- 13 A No, I didn't put it in there, no.
- 14 Q You signed that option agreement, didn't you,
- 15 Mr. Berger?
- 16 A Yes, I signed it.
- 17 Q You didn't have to, though, did you?
- 18 A I don't think I had to, but I was wanting to
- 19 get rid of the business. He was wanting to buy it.
- 20 Q Well, that's an option agreement, not a
- 21 contract, correct?
- 22 MR. BENOIT: Objection. That calls for some type
- 23 of legal conclusion.
- MR. GUBKIN: Well, it says on the top it is an
- 25 option agreement.

- 1 MR. BENOIT: You said that's an option agreement
- 2 not a contract.
- 3 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Sustained.
- 4 MR. GUBKIN: Okay.
- 5 Q (By Mr. Gubkin) As an option agreement, Terra
- 6 Tech didn't have to exercise that agreement, did they?
- 7 A I don't think they had to.
- 8 Q They were not required by that --
- 9 MR. BENOIT: I am going to object. That calls for
- 10 a legal conclusion, contract interpretation. I don't
- 11 believe that the witness is qualified to answer it.
- 12 It would be a legal conclusion whether or not they had
- 13 the right under the terms of this agreement.
- 14 MR. GUBKIN: It states on there that it is --
- 15 MR. BENOIT: As was objected earlier, the document
- 16 has been admitted. It states what it states.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I sustain that. You may
- 18 ask him to read a portion of the document if you care
- 19 to. The document does state what it states.
- 20 Q (By Mr. Gubkin) Would you look at paragraph
- 21 one of that option agreement, Mr. Berger?
- 22 A Yes. (Witness complied.)
- 23 Q And would you read that first paragraph, the
- 24 one that is titled consideration of granted option?
- 25 A It says, owner hereby grants, due to option 615

- 1 lien, its successors and assigns its sole and
- 2 exclusive right an option to purchase the real estate
- 3 in Richland County, Illinois, described in Exhibits A
- 4 and B attached hereto.
- 5 Q Okay. That's fine. You don't have to read
- 6 beyond there. Thank you. After you had signed this
- 7 option agreement, it was still your landfill, wasn't
- 8 it, Mr. Berger?
- 9 A Yes, it was still mine.
- 10 Q You were still responsible for it, weren't
- 11 you?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 MR. GUBKIN: I would like to show you R60,
- 14 Respondent's Exhibit Number 60.
- 15 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: It was marked as R60 but
- 16 not admitted.
- 17 MR. GUBKIN: Excuse me.
- 18 MR. BENOIT: I am going to object to them using my
- 19 document that was not admitted into evidence and it
- 20 was not returned to me.
- 21 MS. MENOTTI: Can we go off the record for a
- 22 minute?
- 23 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Yes.
- 24 (Discussion off the record.)
- 25 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Let's go back on the 616

- 1 record.
- 2 Q (By Mr. Gubkin) Let me show you R60. We will
- 3 look at the second page and the first paragraph.
- 4 Would you just read what the first sentence is of that
- 5 first paragraph.
- 6 A The purpose for the meeting was to informally
- 7 discuss the possibility of a new siting action with
- 8 the County Board for the expansion of the Berger
- 9 facility.
- 10 Q Now, that doesn't say anything about the sale
- 11 of -- that the transfer of the landfill to Terra Tech
- 12 was definite, does it? It says a possibility, doesn't
- 13 it?
- 14 MR. BENOIT: Objection. He is mischaracterizing
- 15 what this says.
- 16 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: It certainly doesn't say
- 17 anything about Terra Tech.
- 18 MR. BENOIT: It doesn't say anything like that.
- 19 MR. GUBKIN: That's true. It doesn't.
- 20 (The Hearing Officer passed Mr. Berger a
- 21 document.)
- 22 MR. GUBKIN: Thank you. I appreciate that. All
- 23 of that for nothing. Never mind.
- 24 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Excuse me?
- 25 MR. GUBKIN: I said all of that for nothing. 617

- 1 Q (By Mr. Gubkin) You had stated on your direct
- 2 that there was no profit when you stopped using your
- 3 own landfill; is that correct? That you made no
- 4 profit once you stopped using it?
- 5 A Yes, it was all liability.
- 6 Q It was your choice to continue collecting
- 7 waste and sending it to other landfills, though,
- 8 wasn't it?
- 9 A Yes, I was trying to make a living.
- 10 Q You didn't have to go to the other landfills,
- 11 did you?
- 12 A Well, I had to if I wanted to dump the
- 13 trash.
- 14 Q On direct Mr. Benoit had you give testimony
- 15 about how you had informed the Attorney General and
- 16 the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency of the
- 17 trust and corporation upon discovery. Do you remember
- 18 having talked about that?
- 19 A Yes, this morning, yes.
- 20 Q You were bound by law, though, to provide
- 21 information in response to the discovery process,
- 22 weren't you?
- 23 A I don't really know. It is beyond me.
- 24 Q Mr. Benoit had you look at a financial
- 25 statement, something titled financial statement from 618

- 1 1996, talking about your assets. Do you remember
- 2 looking at that this morning?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q Those were your own estimates, though,
- 5 weren't they?
- 6 A Yes, that was my own estimate.
- 7 Q That is nothing --
- 8 A That is my own estimates to the bank in order
- 9 to get a loan.
- 10 Q It was nothing official, though, was it?
- 11 A What do you mean official?
- 12 Q Well, you didn't sign it, did you?
- 13 A I think I did sign that. Usually you have to
- 14 sign it.
- 15 Q Mr. Berger, you stated that you have a land
- 16 trust; is that correct?
- 17 MR. BENOIT: Objection. He is misstating the
- 18 witness' testimony. Mr. Berger never said he had a
- 19 land trust.
- 20 MR. GUBKIN: I am sorry.
- 21 Q (By Mr. Gubkin) Mr. Berger, you stated that
- 22 you had put your assets into a land trust; isn't that
- 23 correct?
- 24 A Yes.
- 25 Q How do you know it is a land trust? 619

- 1 A I really don't know. I don't know much about
- 2 trusts.
- 3 Q Okay. Mr. Benoit asked you about several
- 4 different -- what other expenses you may have had.
- 5 Did you have to hire a law firm to represent you in
- 6 this proceeding?
- 7 MR. BENOIT: Objection. Well, go ahead. Strike
- 8 the objection.
- 9 THE WITNESS: Repeat it, please.
- 10 Q (By Mr. Gubkin) Did you have to hire a law
- 11 firm to represent you in this proceeding?
- 12 A You mean to get the trust?
- 13 Q No, no. For here today, did you have to hire
- 14 a lawyer to be with you today?
- 15 A Yes, I suppose. I hired one. I suppose I
- 16 had to hire one.
- 17 Q Well, you went through an administrative
- 18 citation before, correct? You had an administrative
- 19 citation against you?
- 20 A I suppose I have, yes.
- 21 Q I believe you testified then that you didn't
- 22 hire a lawyer to contest that; is that correct?
- 23 A Could you repeat the question, please.
- 24 Q I had said that in your testimony earlier
- 25 today about the administrative citation, you didn't 620

- 1 hire a lawyer to represent you in that, did you?
- 2 A I don't guess.
- 3 Q Okay. Whether or not to hire a law firm is a
- 4 business decision, isn't it? It was your decision,
- 5 correct?
- 6 A Yes, it was my decision.
- 7 Q And which firm you hire is your decision,
- 8 right?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q So whether you hire a law firm that charges
- 11 this amount or that amount is partly based upon your
- 12 decision, isn't it?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q You stated in your testimony earlier today
- 15 that you had all of your asset transferred around July
- 16 1st, 1993?
- 17 MR. BENOIT: Objection. He is misstating the
- 18 witness' testimony again. The witness never said he
- 19 had all of his assets transferred in 1993.
- 20 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: That's correct.
- 21 Q (By Mr. Gubkin) Could you state for me which
- 22 assets you hold today, Mr. Berger?
- 23 MR. BENOIT: This has been asked and answered.
- 24 MS. MENOTTI: It has not been asked and answered.
- 25 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow him to 621

- 1 answer it. He was given some latitude in the prior
- 2 testimony. I will allow the State the same.
- 3 THE WITNESS: Let's see. I believe \$80,000.00.
- 4 Q (By Mr. Gubkin) Is that from the IRA?
- 5 A That's from the IRA, if I remember right.
- 6 Q Okay. That's the only asset that you now
- 7 have in your name, is that correct?
- 8 A Yes. The landfill is a liability.
- 9 MR. GUBKIN: I would like to have that portion
- 10 stricken.
- 11 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Yes, it can be
- 12 stricken.
- 13 Q (By Mr. Gubkin) All your other assets have
- 14 been transferred out of your name; is that correct,
- 15 Mr. Berger?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q You didn't want to have your name attached to
- 18 those assets; is that correct?
- 19 MR. BENOIT: I am going to object or just ask him
- 20 to rephrase it. What does he mean, attached to those
- 21 assets?
- 22 MS. MENOTTI: It doesn't matter if Mr. Benoit
- 23 understands the question. What matters --
- 24 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I am sorry?
- 25 MS. MENOTTI: It doesn't matter if Mr. Benoit 622

- 1 likes the question. It matters whether or not the
- 2 witness can answer the question.
- 3 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: The witness shall answer
- 4 the question.
- 5 THE WITNESS: Repeat, please.
- 6 Q (By Mr. Gubkin) I said you didn't want to
- 7 have your name attached to those assets that you had
- 8 transferred, did you?
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q You still have control of all of those
- 11 assets, though, don't you?
- 12 A No, I don't believe I would have control of
- 13 them.
- 14 Q Who does have control, Mr. Berger?
- 15 A Well, my wife would have the control of
- 16 them.
- 17 Q Okay. You are still with your wife, correct?
- 18 A I am not with her exactly, but I am still
- 19 married to her.
- 20 Q Mr. Berger, who has control of those assets
- 21 while your wife is in rehab?
- 22 A Well, I would say the bank actually has
- 23 control of them in the trust. Is that right?
- 24 Q I don't know. I am asking the question.
- 25 A I think that the bank would have control of 623

- 1 the ---
- 2 Q Do you not know who has control?
- 3 A The Olney Trust Bank. They would have the
- 4 control. I mean, that's what I think. Like I say,
- 5 trusts, you know, I am really not -- I don't know that
- 6 much about a trust.
- 7 MR. BENOIT: Is this line of questioning relevant
- 8 to -- I mean, is it adding something to this case? I
- 9 don't understand where this is going.
- 10 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Relevance?
- 11 MR. GUBKIN: Well, I am done with all my questions
- 12 at this point in time. There was no question pending
- 13 for him to object to.
- 14 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Thank you. You are
- 15 correct. I am sorry.
- 16 MR. GUBKIN: That's fine.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I lost where we were for
- 18 a moment there. So --
- 19 MR. GUBKIN: I am all done with questions.
- 20 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Okay. Do you have
- 21 additional questions, Mr. Benoit?
- 22 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 23 BY MR. BENOIT:
- 24 Q When did you go out to the landfill to --
- 25 strike that.

- 1 Do you know where monitoring well G107 is
- 2 located?
- 3 MR. GUBKIN: Objection. I don't remember asking
- 4 about monitoring well G107 on my cross-examination.
- 5 Beyond the scope.
- 6 MR. BENOIT: He tried to impeach the witness based
- 7 on his statement in the deposition having something to
- 8 do with admitting in the deposition that he had gone
- 9 outside the boundary permitted.
- 10 MS. MENOTTI: That is a mischaracterization of the
- 11 questions that were asked. He did not ask anything
- 12 about the deposition. The witness was never shown the
- 13 deposition transcript. Counsel merely asked whether
- 14 or not he remembered the testimony that was given
- 15 during his deposition.
- 16 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will strike the
- 17 question.
- 18 Do you have another question, Mr. Benoit?
- 19 MR. BENOIT: I am sorry. The objection is that I
- 20 mentioned what he allegedly said in his deposition?
- 21 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: The objection that I am
- 22 sustaining is that it is beyond the scope of the
- 23 cross-examination.
- 24 MR. BENOIT: Is it the ruling that the
- 25 cross-examination did not involve placing -- 625

- 1 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: G107.
- 2 MR. BENOIT: The cross-examination did not involve
- 3 the depositing of waste outside the boundaries of the
- 4 landfill?
- 5 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: The cross-examination
- 6 did involve depositing waste outside the boundaries of
- 7 the landfill. It did not relate to the location of
- 8 monitoring well G107. There were no questions in that
- 9 area during the cross-examination.
- 10 Q (By Mr. Benoit) After your deposition, did
- 11 you go out to the landfill to determine whether or not
- 12 you had placed waste in unpermitted areas of the
- 13 landfill?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 MS. MENOTTI: Objection.
- 16 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow it. Go
- 17 ahead.
- 18 Q (By Mr. Benoit) What did you determine?
- 19 MS. MENOTTI: This witness has not been qualified
- 20 to --
- 21 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow it.
- 22 THE WITNESS: I determined that the waste didn't
- 23 go beyond the permitted area.
- 24 Q (By Mr. Benoit) How did you make that
- 25 determination?

- 1 A Well, because of the map, and I don't know
- 2 what the --
- 3 Q Would you like to reference the inspection
- 4 report with that map in it?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 MR. BENOIT: I am going to show the witness what
- 7 has previously been admitted as State's 6.
- 8 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. This is beyond the
- 9 scope. We didn't talk about Exhibit Number 6 at all
- 10 during the cross-examination, not once.
- 11 MR. BENOIT: I believe it has to do with the
- 12 subject matter and not whether or not you used the
- 13 exhibit.
- 14 MS. MENOTTI: The question on cross-examination
- 15 was did he remember giving testimony at a deposition
- 16 about not -- about disposing waste outside the permits
- 17 of the landfill. That was the question.
- 18 MR. BENOIT: Right.
- 19 MS. MENOTTI: As far as I remember.
- 20 MR. BENOIT: The purpose of the question was to
- 21 impeach him. Now I am trying to demonstrate --
- 22 MS. MENOTTI: It was not impeachment.
- 23 MR. BENOIT: -- why he may have made a statement
- 24 at one point and now he no longer believes that
- 25 statement is true.

- 1 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will allow the witness
- 2 to refer to the map. I will allow the question.
- 3 Please continue.
- 4 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Again, I think the pending
- 5 question, before you were asked to look at State's
- 6 Exhibit Number 2, was how did you determine that you
- 7 had not placed waste outside the permitted boundaries?
- 8 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: We are referring to
- 9 People's Exhibit Number 6.
- 10 THE WITNESS: Because the well on this map is 206
- 11 feet south of the waterway.
- 12 Q (By Mr. Benoit) South?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 MS. MENOTTI: Could you please identify which map
- 15 you are referring to? There is two maps in this
- 16 exhibit. Is it the one with all the trenches?
- 17 MR. BENOIT: Yes, he is looking at --
- 18 MS. MENOTTI: The one that is not to scale.
- 19 MR. BENOIT: The trench one.
- 20 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: The one that is marked
- 21 not to scale.
- 22 MS. MENOTTI: Thank you.
- 23 MR. GUBKIN: Could we have the answer read back?
- 24 I didn't quite catch it.
- 25 (Whereupon the requested portion of the record was 628

- 1 read back by the Reporter at page 628, lines 4
- 2 through 13.)
- 3 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Can you see where it is
- 4 indicated on the map you are looking at which
- 5 direction is north?
- 6 A Yes, I can tell. It is where that ten is.
- 7 Yes, this would be north.
- 8 Q So you can tell what side of the map is
- 9 north?
- 10 A Yes, I can tell which side of the map is
- 11 north. North would be up here on this map
- 12 (indicating).
- 13 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: For the record, he is
- 14 pointing to the corner that is the stapled corner.
- 15 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Where did you determine the
- 16 monitoring well was actually located?
- 17 A It is actually located now approximately, oh,
- 18 probably 100 feet from the tree line.
- 19 Q Which direction?
- 20 A Where it is at right now it would be --
- 21 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Move to strike. The
- 22 location of the monitoring well is not what is at
- 23 issue.
- 24 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will let him answer.
- 25 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Which direction is it 629

- 1 actually located from the tree line?
- 2 A It is north.
- 3 Q And how many feet north of the tree line is
- 4 it?
- 5 A Approximately 206 feet.
- 6 Q Okay. Who did you hire to conduct
- 7 groundwater monitoring from 1979 to 1991, if you can
- 8 recall?
- 9 A Jack Fagetti (spelled phonetically) was the
- 10 engineer, so his helper went out and done the -- got
- 11 the samples and all of that and sent the report in to
- 12 the State of Illinois.
- 13 Q And Mr. Fagetti is an engineer?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q Okay.
- 16 A He worked for I think Edmundson Associates
- 17 out of Flora at the time.
- 18 Q Okay. I am going to show you what has
- 19 previously been admitted as R23, the option
- 20 agreement. Did you draft that option agreement? Did
- 21 you write it?
- 22 A No, I never wrote it.
- 23 Q How much -- what was the amount of the
- 24 penalty that you had to pay --
- 25 MR. GUBKIN: Objection. I don't remember any 630

- 1 questioning about penalties. It is beyond the scope.
- 2 MR. BENOIT: He had a question regarding --
- 3 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: It is related to the
- 4 administrative citation.
- 5 MR. BENOIT: Right.
- 6 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Please continue.
- 7 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Do you recall the
- 8 administrative citation?
- 9 A No. What was the date?
- 10 Q Okay. I don't really know off the top of my
- 11 head.
- 12 A There was one in 1988.
- 13 Q I believe it was --
- 14 A 1988.
- 15 Q 1988. Do you recall that administrative
- 16 citation?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q What was the size of the penalty that you
- 19 ultimately paid?
- 20 A I believe I had to pay a \$1,000.00 penalty.
- 21 Q Do you know the size of the penalty that the
- 22 State of Illinois is seeking in this complaint
- 23 according to the prayer for relief in the complaint?
- 24 MS. MENOTTI: Objection. Relevance. Beyond the
- 25 scope.

- 1 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Sustained.
- 2 MR. BENOIT: I am trying to demonstrate why Mr.
- 3 Berger might need a lawyer in a case like this as
- 4 opposed to an administrative citation. Mr. Gubkin
- 5 suggested that is a business decision. I think in any
- 6 business decision you would look at the size of
- 7 potential liability before deciding whether to --
- 8 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I don't think that is
- 9 relevant.
- 10 MR. BENOIT: Okay. I am going to show the witness
- 11 what has been marked as State's Number 5.
- 12 MS. MENOTTI: Are you finished with State's Number
- 13 6?
- 14 MR. BENOIT: Yes. I would like to ask the witness
- 15 to hold the map with north pointing towards the court
- 16 reporter.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Which map is that?
- MR. BENOIT: We are looking at the cell map,
- 19 People's 5.
- 20 Q (By Mr. Benoit) On cross-examination when you
- 21 answered yes to Mr. Gubkin's question as to whether
- 22 the inspector marked this map correctly, do you know
- 23 whether --
- 24 MR. GUBKIN: Objection. I don't believe that that
- 25 was the question that I asked. I didn't ask whether 632

- 1 the map was marked correctly.
- 2 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Right.
- 3 MR. BENOIT: Okay. I am sorry. He never asked
- 4 that question?
- 5 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: He asked whether the
- 6 report was marked correctly.
- 7 MR. BENOIT: The report.
- 8 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: That was the question,
- 9 whether the inspector's report was marked correctly.
- 10 Q (By Mr. Benoit) Do you understand what Mr.
- 11 Gubkin asked you, during his cross, as to whether or
- 12 not the inspection report that we are talking about,
- 13 State's Number 5, was marked correctly?
- 14 A (The witness reviewed document.)
- 15 Q Wayne, they clarified that he was not talking
- 16 about the map, so I withdraw my direction to have you
- 17 look at the map.
- 18 My question is do you understand what Mr. Gubkin
- 19 asked you when he asked you whether this entire report
- 20 is marked correctly?
- 21 MS. MENOTTI: I am going to object. The witness
- 22 answered the question and --
- 23 THE WITNESS: I don't believe --
- 24 MS. MENOTTI: -- Mr. Benoit is doing this because
- 25 he was not paying attention and does not know what the 633

- 1 question was.
- 2 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: The question was asked
- 3 and answered. I don't believe this is a proper
- 4 question.
- 5 MR. BENOIT: Okay. No further questions.
- 6 RECROSS EXAMINATION
- 7 BY MR. GUBKIN:
- 8 Q Mr. Berger, do you still have in front of you
- 9 State's Exhibit Number 6? That's the April 18th, 1994
- 10 report.
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q If you would turn, once again, to the map
- 13 with the trenches marked on it?
- 14 A (Witness complied.)
- 15 Q That map indicates that it is not to scale,
- 16 doesn't it?
- 17 A Yes, I can see where it has not to scale.
- 18 Q Okay. There is no markings on this map that
- 19 indicate where there is a waterway, is there?
- 20 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Where there is a what?
- 21 MR. GUBKIN: Where there is a waterway.
- 22 MR. BENOIT: Objection. He is getting beyond the
- 23 scope. There has never been any discussion in this
- 24 whole case about a waterway.
- 25 MR. GUBKIN: No, during your redirect he was 634

- 1 referring to this map and he mentioned a waterway.
- 2 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: He did.
- 3 MR. BENOIT: Okay.
- 4 Q (By Mr. Gubkin) So I will reask the question,
- 5 Mr. Berger.
- 6 A Okay.
- 7 Q Is there a waterway indicated anywhere on
- 8 this map? There isn't, is there?
- 9 A There wouldn't be a waterway where the --
- 10 actually where the landfill is, no.
- 11 Q There is no tree line that is marked on this
- 12 map, is there?
- 13 A Well, it is not marked, but it looks like it
- 14 would be right here (indicating).
- 15 Q Okay.
- 16 A There is a tree line here. I am just going
- 17 by this map.
- 18 Q Now, you indicated on your -- just a few
- 19 moments ago, you said something about the well, the
- 20 monitoring well being 206 feet south of the waterway;
- 21 isn't that correct?
- 22 A I don't think that -- I didn't mean that. I
- 23 meant it was 206 feet from the well where it is at
- 24 now.
- 25 Q Would you flip forward one page to the other 635

- 1 map with the scale on it?
- 2 A (Witness complied.)
- 3 Q Do you know if this map was submitted to the
- 4 Illinois EPA on your behalf?
- 5 A I guess. It is there.
- 6 MR. GUBKIN: Thank you. No further questions.
- 7 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Thank you very much, Mr.
- 8 Berger.
- 9 MR. GUBKIN: Thank you.
- 10 (The witness left the stand.)
- 11 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I would like to go off
- 12 the record for a little bit and ask Darlene if she
- 13 will continue searching for the spot in the record
- 14 where we dealt with Respondent's Exhibit Number 60.
- 15 (Discussion off the record.)
- 16 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Back on the record. We
- 17 have determined that my handwriting is bad and that
- 18 Respondent's Exhibit Number 60 was, in fact, admitted
- 19 into the record.
- I believe that I had not, in fact, ever ruled on
- 21 Respondent's Exhibit Number 20. That was the letter
- 22 from Crawford & Whiteside that you had asked me to
- 23 reserve ruling on.
- 24 MR. BENOIT: I think the objection was hearsay on
- 25 Maria's part.

- 1 MS. MENOTTI: I am sorry. On which one?
- 2 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Respondent's 20.
- 3 MR. BENOIT: Respondent's 20.
- 4 MS. MENOTTI: Right. We objected that it was
- 5 hearsay. The person that generated it was not subject
- 6 to cross-examination. It is not a business record.
- 7 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I will admit it. So
- 8 Respondent's Exhibit 20 is also part of the record.
- 9 (Whereupon said document was admitted into
- 10 evidence as Respondent's Exhibit 20 as of this
- 11 date.)
- MS. MENOTTI: Is it being admitted as substantive
- 13 evidence?
- 14 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: No, it is being admitted
- 15 for the fact that the letter was sent and received.
- 16 MS. MENOTTI: Can we clarify that the letter was
- 17 sent and received as far as that Mr. Berger received a
- 18 carbon copy, because this was sent to the Illinois EPA
- 19 and --
- 20 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Yes, yes.
- 21 MS. MENOTTI: Oh, okay.
- 22 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: It was cc'd to Mr.
- 23 Berger.
- 24 MS. MENOTTI: Okay.
- 25 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I thought I recalled 637

- 1 carbon copy on here, but I just walked over to check.
- 2 Did you have anything else to present, Mr.
- 3 Benoit?
- 4 MR. BENOIT: No, I don't.
- 5 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Thank you. The parties
- 6 have --
- 7 MS. MENOTTI: I have one thing. It is not a
- 8 rebuttal witness, but before the State closes its
- 9 record, so the Hearing Officer and the Board are
- 10 aware, we will be filing affidavits regarding
- 11 attorney's fees in accordance with the Environmental
- 12 Protection Act, and we seek leave to request witness
- 13 fees for Mr. Kains having to drive down and appear at
- 14 the hearing on behalf of the Respondents.
- 15 MR. BENOIT: Are these going to be written
- 16 motions?
- 17 MS. MENOTTI: The attorney's fees affidavit are
- 18 submitted to the Board to supplement the record. The
- 19 request for witness fees, I don't -- during our
- 20 pretrial conversations the Hearing Officer indicated
- 21 that she wanted to see the authority for that, so I
- 22 suppose I have to do a motion for the Hearing Officer.
- 23 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I would prefer a written
- 24 motion.
- 25 MS. MENOTTI: That is fine.

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- 1 MR. BENOIT: I will respond in writing, too.
- 2 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Fine.
- 3 MS. MENOTTI: Okay. The People have nothing
- 4 further besides those two issues.
- 5 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Okay. The parties have
- 6 waived closing arguments here on the record. They
- 7 will be including them in their final briefs and
- 8 statement. We have determined that the schedule,
- 9 while not entirely agreeable, but the schedule that we
- 10 will follow, based on the transcript being available
- 11 no later than September 15th, is that the People's
- 12 brief will be due October 15th. The Respondent's
- 13 brief will be due November 5th, and any reply by the
- 14 State to the People's brief will be due on November
- 15 20th.
- 16 Is there anything else from the parties?
- 17 MS. MENOTTI: Just for the record, Ms. Hearing
- 18 Officer, I think that we have also waived closing
- 19 arguments on the record in lieu of the briefing
- 20 schedule.
- 21 MR. BENOIT: I think she stated that.
- 22 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: I thought that is what I
- 23 indicated, but that is fine.
- 24 MS. MENOTTI: I missed it. I am sorry.
- 25 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: That's fine.

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| 1 MS. MENOTTI: I don't have anything further. |
|--|
| 2 HEARING OFFICER CROWLEY: Fine. The only thing |
| 3 that I think that I would like to mention is that the |
| 4 copy of Respondent's 18 that is being submitted to the |
| 5 Board is a copy that does not have the original |
| 6 exhibit sticker on it. That is due to the fact that |
| 7 at some point I seem to have lost track of |
| 8 Respondent's Exhibit 18, so I am accepting a copy in |
| 9 lieu of the original marked exhibit. |
| 10 Thank you all very much. We will adjourn the |
| 11 hearing. |
| 12 MR. BENOIT: Thank you. |
| 13 MS. MENOTTI: Thank you. |
| 14 (Exhibits retained by Hearing |
| 15 Officer Crowley.) |
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| 1 | STATE OF ILLINOIS) |
|----|---|
| 2 | COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY) |
| 3 | |
| 4 | CERTIFICATE |
| 5 | |
| 6 | I, DARLENE M. NIEMEYER, a Notary Public in and for |
| 7 | the County of Montgomery, State of Illinois, DO HEREBY |
| 8 | CERTIFY that the foregoing 640 pages comprise a true, |
| 9 | complete and correct transcript of the proceedings |
| 10 | held on the 21st of August A.D., 1998, at The Olney |
| 11 | Public Library, Olney, Illinois, in the case of The |
| 12 | People of the State of Illinois v. Wayne Berger and |
| 13 | Berger Waste Management, Inc., in proceedings held |
| 14 | before the Honorable Kathleen M. Crowley, Hearing |
| 15 | Officer, and recorded in machine shorthand by me. |
| 16 | IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and |
| 17 | affixed my Notarial Seal this 31st day of August A.D., |
| 18 | 1998. |
| 19 | |
| 20 | |
| 21 | Notary Public and Certified Shorthand Reporter and Registered Professional Reporter |
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