

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
August 9, 1990

TOWN OF CORTLAND,)
)
) Petitioner,)
)) PCB 90-43
) v.) (Variance)
))
) ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)
) PROTECTION AGENCY,)
))
) Respondent.)

DISSENTING OPINION (by J.D. Dumelle):

The Town of Cortland and the IEPA in their filings give both inconsistent and incorrect statements.

Cortland states, "The Petitioner does not consider the radiological quality of this community water supply to be a significant short term health risk". (Petition, p. 7). Yet attached to the Petition are pages from the USEPA's Office of Drinking Water (January, 1989) titled "Status of the Radionuclides Proposal" which state:

All radionuclides considered in this proposal have been verified as belonging to Group A, known human carcinogens. Therefore, the MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goals) for each radionuclide will be proposed as zero.

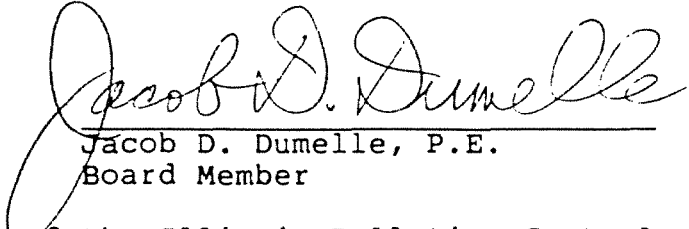
A carcinogen is considered by most medical and scientific experts to have no threshold. That means any amount can induce cancer. Thus the presence of radium in Cortland's water is a short term health risk. Radium admittedly causes head and bone cancer and may also cause leukemia.

What are the risks in drinking Cortland's water? They are quite high. Using the data placed into the Braidwood case, PCB 89-212, by Dr. William Hallenbeck, (and inexplicably not referenced in IEPA's Recommendation in the instant case) the risk from drinking Cortland water at 8.1 pCi/l is 1-in-8,850 over a lifetime. This is far higher than the usual 1-in-1,000,000 risk used to regulate pesticide residues. It is 113 times higher!

The IEPA in its Recommendation discusses water softening using salt (pp. 6-7). It points out that, if salt is used, the sodium content of the drinking water will be increased and "may create a significant risk to persons who are hypertensive or who have heart problems..." Yet in its 20 years of existence the IEPA has never proposed to the Pollution Control Board a limit on the

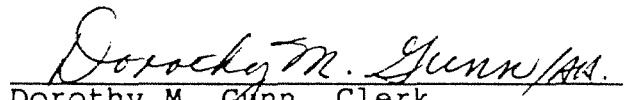
sodium content of public drinking water supplies. If sodium is in fact a health hazard why is not the public protected from it?

For these reasons, I dissent.



Jacob D. Dumelle, P.E.
Board Member

I, Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board hereby certify that the above Dissenting Opinion was submitted on the 24th day of August, 1990.



Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board