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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

PCB 11

December 11, 2003

Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center Suite 11-500
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601

Regarding Case #PCB 03-188 AND PCB 03-218

Dear Dorothy,

The application to expand the Rochelle Landfill has been the biggest brouhaha that this small community has ever seen. The reasons for it are as numerous as the lies that were told about the operations and the operator of the landfill.

Those who sought to stop the landfill expansion were an organized group and many of its members and followers displayed behavior that was outright malicious.

They used any tactic they deemed necessary to incite the masses to join their cause. They ran a campaign that included recruiting candidates for office and spreading lies through letters to the editor and coffee shop gossip. Anyone who dared to question any of their actions or statements was verbally attacked around town and in letters to the editor. Some people in the community sent letters to the council members telling them that if they voted for the landfill expansion that they would never be elected to any office ever again.

Their tactics included a huge rumor campaign that included the following lies:

1. Cancer rates are soaring in the community due to the landfill.
2. Rochelle City Council members are being paid under the table to vote this through.
3. The garbage truck drivers are reckless and have and will cause accidents.
4. The children from Creston are suffering from asthma in great numbers due to the landfill.
5. The landfill operator is allowing illegal dumping of toxic waste after hours.
6. The landfill will pollute our water supply.
7. Garbage is allowed to blow all over the area.

Lie #6 is their favorite lie. They claim to be very concerned about the water supply, yet they have never voiced any concern about two properties (one owned by NICOR and the other owned by BP Amoco) located inside the city limits of Rochelle that are being monitored for actual ground contamination.

The anti landfill people have been so successful in their campaign to incite the masses that those who are in favor of a landfill expansion are afraid to speak out. There have only been 4 people in this community who wrote letters to the editor speaking up for the landfill expansion. I am one of them and I have received many phone calls and many people have stopped me on the street to say that they are happy I have spoken up but they are too afraid to join me in my efforts. I am constantly being given dirty looks from the anti landfill people and I have had to deal with outrageous rumors being made up about me and my family. The rumors are meant to discredit me and my family.

The Rochelle city council (of early 2003) disregarded the rules and laws that were to be followed during the landfill hearings. But I can understand why the last council disregarded them, they must have been afraid to do the right thing and have to deal with the wrath of the anti landfill crowd.

The CCOC became involved in the 2001 Rochelle city elections. They were successful in electing their hand picked candidates Mr. Ed Kissick and Mr. Wendell "Pal" Colwill. These candidates were never going to give the landfill expansion hearings a fair trial. They would not have been supported by the CCOC if they were not sworn to vote NO to the expansion. Both Mr. Kissick and Mr. Colwill have written letters to the editor showing their bias. I have included copies of their letters with this letter.

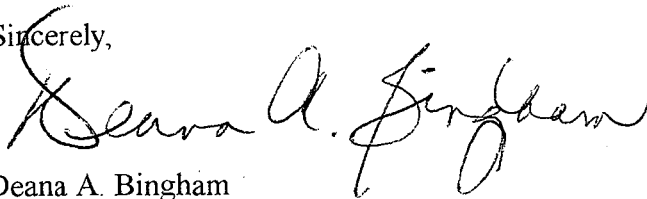
In 2001 Mr. Bubik was appointed to the council to fill the vacancy of Mr. Conour. During the 2000 landfill expansion hearings Mr. Bubik displayed an anti landfill yard sign in his yard. He too had shown an anti landfill bias before the 2003 hearings.

I believe that Mayor Bob Ginerich was the only council member in 2003 that listened with an unbiased and open mind to the landfill hearings. Mr. Hann is a good man but he does not like to render decisions that may make him unpopular and therefore will usually take the easy way out.

It is my opinion that the landfill expansion should be heard in the courts where it can be decided by someone who will not be intimidated by a hostile crowd. I do not believe that the current Rochelle city council has the desire nor the will to render a decision that is based on the facts or merits of the landfill expansion application.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deana A. Bingham". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Deana A. Bingham
400 Cherry Ave.
Rochelle, IL 61068
Phone 815-562-6150

Landfill operators should put their money where their mouths are

Dear Editor;

First of all, I would like to commend my friend, the owner of Rochelle Disposal, and all of his employees that do such a terrific job of taking care of our garbage. However, I can't for the life of me, sit back, with the hair on the back of my neck standing on end, and not say anything about this mega-dump.

The only positive that could ever come from this landfill expansion is money. If we don't really care how we sell our souls, why don't we legalize drugs, prostitution and gambling in Rochelle. We currently try to guide our children by telling them to stay away from drugs because they are bad for them and will ruin their future.

Well then, would it be right to tell them this dump is okay even though it will similarly ruin the future of our own children. Is the money that will be generated from this really worth it? How many lives will be lost or accidents will happen at the intersection of Mulford Rd. and Rt. 38? What is human life worth, not to mention the potential ground and water contamination? If Rochelle is this hard up to generate money, maybe you should call up all the nuclear plants and tell them we are willing to dig a hole in the middle of Rochelle. Then we can bury the nuclear waste and generate tons of money, along with tons of radiation, all because of the all mighty dollar. The neat thing is that we won't have to worry about our kids or grandkids growing up with deformities because we sold our future and souls for the money!

We talk about trying to attract new business to Rochelle. I personally don't think having the third or fourth largest mega-dump in Illinois will help attract any major, good paying, industries to Rochelle. One week we are talking about a big intermodal, the next we are talking about a mega-dump. Perhaps the person hired to attract business to Rochelle should be paid in the same fashion as a real estate salesperson or car salesman. If you don't attract or perform, you make very little, but if you work very hard and attract a large amount, then you make a lot of money. Isn't that how business is supposed to work? I have a very difficult time believing that this landfill is the best thing that we could come up with. If it is the best thing that could be put on the table, maybe we should bring a new group of participants to the table.

If this landfill is as safe as the promoters say it is, then maybe they wouldn't have a problem putting some money (profit) in an escrow to buy all the surrounding land if there just happens to be any leakage. It also may not be a bad idea for them to have a billion-dollar insurance policy to guarantee no leakage for the next 100 years. Don't our kids deserve that kind of reassurance? If this dump is that safe, then these terms shouldn't be any kind of problem. If anyone else who reads this letter is as upset about this mega-dump being shoved down their throats as I am, then please take the time to go out to your garbage, find an old piece of wood, and make a sign for your front yard that says, "NO TO THE MEGA-DUMP!" If not this, please take the time to write to your mayor, council members or editor of this paper.

Proud to be from Rochelle at this time,

Ed Kissick,

COMMUNITY VOICE

Councilman wants RWD to end issue

Dear Editor,

I would like to direct my comments in this letter to the folks at Rochelle Waste Disposal, LLC.

For the last three years the people of Rochelle and the surrounding communities have been up in arms over the proposed landfill expansion. I have lived in Rochelle all my life and I don't believe I have ever seen the people so stirred up over an issue.

Last Thursday night the Rochelle City Council rejected your application. This is the second time the application has been rejected. I would beg of you, I would plead with you, not to pursue this application any further. Let this issue end now. One would have to be totally deaf and totally blind to not hear and see that the people of Rochelle and the community at large do not want this landfill expansion in their back yard.

Please do not take the attitude that you are going to "jam the expansion down our throat whether we like it or not". Let it end now.

Do what is right. Do what is morally right, and put an end to this issue now, so that the people of Rochelle can live at peace again.

Wendell Colwill
Councilman, City of Rochelle