

PCB 03-218
PC #15

I, Charlotte Berg, spoke at the IPCB Hearing on December 10--giving the enclosed message. I would like to enclose to map taken from the internet, and also a copy of the article quoted from the Aurora Beacon News, both were referred to in my message.

Thank You.

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

My name is Charlotte Berg
I live at 422 Cedarholm St. Rochelle Illinois

December 10, 2003

We appreciate and want to thank and support the decision of the City Council to deny the landfill expansion. We know a lot of thought was given to the whole idea; for the safety of the citizens, for the questionable need of more landfill space, for protecting the environment and also the growth potential of Rochelle and Creston. Thank you City Council!

According to the nine criteria that has to be met--need for more space is not necessary, recently the landfill at Orchard Hills has been granted a 20 year expansion. It is away from housing development--but the Rochelle landfill is not, it is within approximately one half mile of the town of Creston. As to travel--although highway Rt 38 has placed turn lanes at Mulford road, it hasn't eliminated or cut the number of garbage trucks on the road. With expansion, the number would greatly increase. Traffic to and from Kishwaukee College and Northern Illinois University make it very busy, especially for a two lane highway. If semis are allowed to bring in garbage from six AM to seven PM traffic hazards could multiply. More semis traveling certainly could raise the cost of road maintenance. Also there are many trains, long trains, traveling the United Pacific railway, some causing cars to wait 15 to 20 minutes before crossing, certainly that will cause delays for trucks getting in and out of the landfill entrance area. I doubt if much can be done about that--so there is still a traffic problem!

I have an article printed in the "Aurora Beacon News", dated June 2, 2000. It states the "Settlers Hill landfill" there, may be closed within three to four years (that would be anytime now) which would leave the area cities without a place to take their refuse, so the city council that week approved a two year option to purchase 7.7 acres of land to be used as a solid waste transfer station. It would have garbage haulers bring trash in, then it would be shipped to other areas--it goes on to say, it is adjacent to a railroad spur. There are no residence anywhere near, then it goes on to say, (quote) "rail cars would take the refuse cars to a large landfill site along the United Pacific roadline in the area of Rochelle or other communities to the west. It is possible some waste could be transferred by truck--depending on its destination." (unquote). I wonder why they even thought of Rochelle landfill if no one ever said it would or could be available. Would Rochelle Waste Disposal ever ask for permission to accept rail delivery in the future?

Garbage in and out of transfer stations is not monitored by the IEPA. Also sludge is not recommended by the IEPA to be sent to a landfill, but the cleaning from the Northern Illinois pond were accepted to the Rochelle landfill.

There is no proof that the landfill will ever leak--nor is there any proof that it won't. As a child, I remember folks saying in this area of Illinois, there is a "fault" line. We checked the internet to see what information they had available--the map shows two fault lines in northern Illinois. One of those travels from the center of Ogle county to the south west, pretty close to the DeKalb-Ogle county line--Creston is about two miles from that line. Although there hasn't been

any severe earthquakes--the last earthquake in the area was in September 1972, a 4.5 magnitude. Who can safely say there will never be another one? I wonder if the landfill liner would split or tear if a quake should ever happen. Leakage into the aquifer could be very possible. Once water table is contaminated, not much can be done to clean it up.

Knowing that cell one of the present landfill has been leaking since before the application for expansion by RWD in the year 2000--why hasn't ALL effort been made to remove the refuse from that cell, even should it mean no more trash could be accepted at the landfill until cell one was empty and sealed?

They don't want landfills near Chicago, there are too many people-- don't we count as people worth protecting?

I don't see people rushing to build homes around a landfill. WHY?

Certainly there are other methods of getting revenue than by destroying the landscape, or taking chances of polluting our water, or ruining our roads with more heavy traffic, or devaluing our land values.

Until a better method of disposing of our garbage or trash is established, we do need landfills, but we don't need them right next to a village!

Thank you.

Batavia mulls waste-transfer site

By Lyle R. Rolfe
STAFF WRITER

BATAVIA — The city is taking steps to assure residents there will be a place for their garbage when area landfills close within the next few years.

The City Council this week approved a two-year option, at \$10 a year, on 7.7 acres of land to be used as a solid waste transfer station. Garbage haulers would bring trash to the site, and it would be shipped from there to other areas.

The land is at the southeast edge of a 199-acre industrial park under development

south of Fabyan Parkway and between Paramount Parkway and the Kane-DuPage county line. The land is adjacent to a railroad spur and surrounded by land zoned for industrial use.

"There are no residences anywhere near the site," Mayor Jeff Schielke said.

Schielke said it appears that the Settlers Hill landfill may close within the next three or four years, which would leave area cities without a place to take their refuse.

Batavia council members visited transfer stations in West Chicago and Rolling Meadows before making a decision on the site.

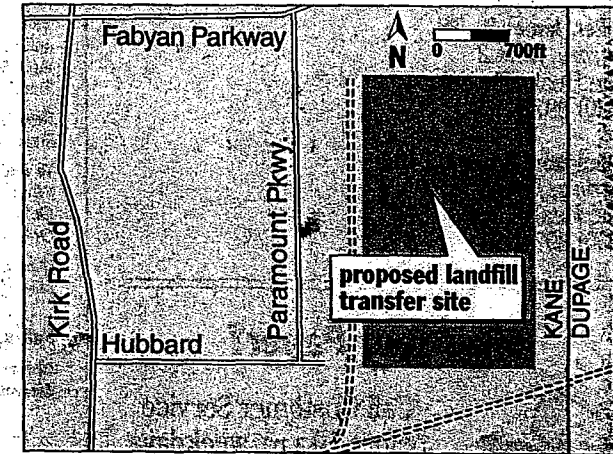
Schielke said the city could lease the

land to a private company or go into partnership with a company. Companies would be asked to submit proposals to build and operate the facility.

The private company would have to build a facility according to the city's standards.

"It would have to be totally enclosed, and all garbage would have to be removed by the end of each day, so the facility could be thoroughly washed down," Schielke said. "We don't want something that would attract rodents or bugs or have any odor."

"This would have to be environmentally



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ILLUSTRATION BY JULIE ZOLOND



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WASTE

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clean facility that would blend in well with other industries in the park."

Schielke said it is possible the facility could generate \$300,000 to \$600,000 a year for the city. The city also would have large-volume sales of electric and water utilities to the company operating the plant, he said.

Rail cars would take the refuse cars to large landfill sites along the Union Pacific railroad line in the area of Rochelle and other communities to the west.

It is possible some waste could be transferred by truck, depending on its destination, Schielke added.

The mayor said he expects to see similar transfer stations built elsewhere in the area. He said this one would not be able to serve all neighboring communities.

City Attorney John Noble said land in the industrial park is selling for \$3.25 a square foot. He said a final price would have to be negotiated with the owner, Robin Hill Development, at the time a final decision to buy is made.

Schielke said the city hopes to get funds from the Kane County Division of Environmental Services and the

Kane County Board to help fund a study to determine the feasibility, cost and how to the project.

Noble said the county wants a transfer facility in this area to serve area communities. The county owns the Settlers Hill landfill.

"It would take about two years to construct the facility, so we have to get started immediately," Schielke said.

The firm that eventually would run the facility would make its money by charging garbage haulers to bring their loads.

Schielke could not say whether this would end up costing area residents more or less money than they now pay for garbage pickup.

