

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

PCB 03-218
PC#16

M. Pierce
1161 Cl. Park Terrace
Rochelle, IL 61068

I am writing to you in regards to Case Number 2003-218 where Rochelle Waste Disposal LLC (RWD) is asking the Pollution Control Board to reverse the Rochelle City Council's decision of last April to deny the landfill expansion application sought by RWD.

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My name is Michael Pierce and I live in Rochelle with my wife and three children. Our children are the sixth generation of Pierce's living in Southeastern Ogle County at the siting hearing last April, and I writing today in support of the decision of the Rochelle City Council made last April to deny the siting application for the expansion of the landfill.

First of all, my family's business in Creston as well as the business I manage in Rochelle both use the services provided by RWD. RWD has always provided us with excellent service and I do not question the necessity of their services. I am however, deeply concerned about the condition of the existing landfill and of the necessity of any landfill expansion between Creston and Rochelle.

Furthermore, there is some question as to whether the Rochelle City Council acted fairly and equitably in deciding if the landfill expansion should have been granted. A lawyer friend of mine once told me that a decision is fair and equitable when both opposing parties feel as though they got the bad end of the ruling. Clearly, RWD feels the Councils decision was incorrect. It is also clear that the citizens of Rochelle support the Rochelle City Council's decision; however, they realize that the battle over the landfill the public doesn't want will likely continue for years to come.

Finally, I fully support the effort the Concerned Citizen's of Ogle County have made in opposing the last two expansion applications. They are a group of caring individuals with the wisdom to fight for a future for their children and grandchildren in Southeastern Ogle County. They have enlightened many of us who felt that the expansion was a "done deal" long before the Rochelle City Council had the opportunity to vote on the criteria required for a landfill expansion. I am equally proud of the decision the four members of the Rochelle City Council made in voting "no" on four of the nine criteria required to approve the siting application.

A few days after the Rochelle City Council denied the landfill expansion, the City held its regularly scheduled Council meeting. It turned out to be our former Mayor's last meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting, I shook the hand of the now former Mayor. I thanked him for listening to my issues and he responded that people like me just cost the City of Rochelle millions of dollars. And while it may be true that the City will not be seeing the revenue the landfill expansion would have generated, I sincerely believe that Rochelle and greater Southeastern Ogle County are in a better position to prosper, as a whole, than they would have been with a landfill expansion. This prosperity will not be measured in dollars or cents, but rather in things like an improved quality of life and a cleaner environment. I ask you to uphold the Council's decision and to support their actions of last April.

Sincerely,

