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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

December 20, 2003

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

PCB#20

RE: Case PCB 03-188 and PCB 03-218

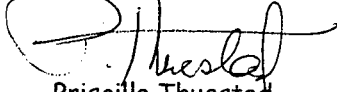
To The Illinois Pollution Control Board:

I believe the City of Rochelle made the correct decision when they did not approve the Rochelle Waste Disposal expansion. The applicant talks about the fundamental fairness issue regarding the City of Rochelle's decision, saying the Council was influenced by the citizens. Common sense tells me that the applicant is really the one who has the unfair advantage over the entire process. The following will make my point:

1. The applicant is allowed to pay increased tipping fees to the City of Rochelle *only if they vote to approve a landfill expansion*. The City is also offered big bucks, (\$200,000 I believe,) once the expanded area is operational....that is viewed by many citizens as giving increased and unfair pressure in favor of an expansion.
2. Prior to the second application being submitted, a Citizens Advisory committee was selected by the City of Rochelle to discuss issues regarding any future expansion of the landfill. The meetings were open to the public and could have been healthy to the process if all parties could have had equal representation. Not one of the Board Members or Officers of the Concerned Citizens of Ogle County was included on the committee who would provide a final report to the city. Also no funds, although requested by the committee, were given to hire outside experts. Instead most of the information and input was provided by the applicant. With all due respect to the committee members, they were NOT experts to even know the right questions to ask. It seems as though this would be like having a jury make a decision without listening to both sides of the story through cross examination of witnesses.
3. The applicants had large resources to pay expert witnesses and several attorneys to make their case before and during the hearings. Citizens had limited resources... one expert witness and one attorney paid for thru donations and fund raisers. We all know that the more money spent making a case, gives one the best odds during their day in court.
4. You can surely bet that the applicant did plenty of "pleading their case" with the City leading up to the hearings and knowing full well what details were in their application. Once the application for expansion was filed, the Council Members and the Mayor of Rochelle were unable to discuss the landfill issue with the citizens. Another words, the citizens could not have a two-way discussion of the actual application with the council and mayor prior to their vote.

The applicant, in their appeal, seems to say the citizens should be silenced. If citizens could not speak out through editorials to express their opinions on such an important issue, I would say that would truly be fundamentally unfair. The City of Rochelle made the correct decision to deny this landfill expansion based on the facts presented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Priscilla Thuestad". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Priscilla Thuestad  
7831 S. Locust Rd  
Rochelle, IL 61068