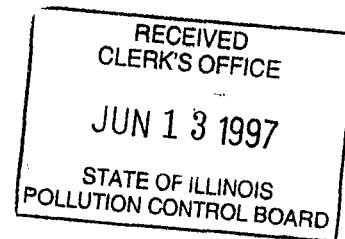


*R. Desai, M.D.*

ORIGINAL

June 12, 1997.

Practice of Pediatrics  
Victory Professional Building  
2031 East Grand  
Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046  
708/356-5575



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

The Clerk Of The Illinois Pollution Control Board:

Attached is the full copy of proposal R97-29 which was accidentally omitted from June 9, 1997 filing with proof of service.

All the attached copies of full proposal have been sent to the listed parties on the proof of service document.

I apologize for the confusion. Please accept these attached copies of full proposal with June 9, 1997 filing.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Renuka N. Desai".

Renuka N. Desai, M.D.



110 East Laurel • Lake Forest, Illinois 60045 • (708) 234-2600

April 8, 1996

Mr. Mike Moomey  
Acting Section Chief of Toxicology  
Illinois Department of Public Health  
525 West Jefferson  
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Mr. Moomey:

It is my understanding that copies of the Environmental Characterization Bio-Aerosol Emissions report has been requested by residents of our community. Copies of the report should be sent to The City of Lake Forest only for committee review and approval. Residents have been informed that reports will be available to them at the Monday, April 15 meeting.

Since you were employed by The City of Lake Forest and since your report has not even been submitted to the City Council, you have no legal right to release the report prior to acceptance by the City. The City of Lake Forest will pursue legal action to insure that the proper protocol is maintained.

The City of Lake Forest

Tom Naatz  
Director of Public Works

TN/pw

*we asked city manager to provide us the protocol. There was no protocol established. Democratic Process has been stopped over and over. we were not allowed to talk to the scientist during the process.*

STATE OF ILLINOIS     )  
  )  
COUNTY OF LAKE        )

PROOF OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, on oath state that I have served the attached proposal in the matter of Amendments to Location Standards for Landscape Waste Compost Facilities, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 830.203 (c), upon the person to whom it is directed, by placing a copy in an envelope addressed to:

Judith S. Dyer, Assistant Counsel  
Lisa E. Moreno, Assistant Counsel  
IEPA, Division of Legal Counsel  
2200 Churchill Road  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, Ill. 62794-9276

Matthew Dunn, chief  
Office of Attorney General  
Environmental Bureau  
100 W. Randolph Street  
11th Floor  
Chicago, Il. 60601

Philip A. Montalvo  
Chief Legal Counsel  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
524 S. Second Street  
Springfield, Il. 62701-1787

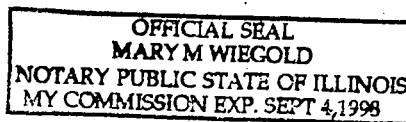
and mailing it from Lake Forest, Illinois on 6/9/97 with first class postage affixed.

*R. V. Dyer, Jr.*

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME

this 9th day of June, 1997

*Mary M. Wiegold*  
Notary Public Seal



*R. Desai, M.D.*

Practice of Pediatrics  
Victory Professional Building  
2031 East Grand  
Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046  
708/356-5575

May 5, 1997

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

To the Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

Pursuant to the 35 Illinois Administrative Code, Section 102.120 and 102.121(a), I am submitting a proposal to amend the *Location Standards for Landscape Waste Compost Facilities* (Section 830.203 (c)), as follows:

**The composting area of the facility must be LOCATED SO AS TO MINIMIZE INCOMPATIBILITY WITH THE CHARACTER OF THE SURROUNDING AREA INCLUDING AT LEAST A 200 FOOT SETBACK FROM ANY RESIDENCE, AND IN THE CASE OF A FACILITY THAT IS DEVELOPED OR THE PERMITTED COMPOSTING AREA OF WHICH IS EXPANDED AFTER NOVEMBER 17, 1991. THE COMPOSTING AREA shall be LOCATED AT LEAST 1/8 MILE FROM THE NEAREST RESIDENCE (OTHER THAN A RESIDENCE LOCATED ON THE SAME PROPERTY AS THE FACILITY, AND A MINIMUM OF 1/2 MILE FROM THE PROPERTY LINE OF A HOSPITAL, SCHOOL, AN ATHLETIC FIELD AND A PUBLIC PARK, EXISTING COMPOSTING OPERATIONS THAT ARE LOCATED WITHIN 1/2 MILE OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED FACILITIES SHALL BE RELOCATED TO MORE THAN 1/2 MILE WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS REGULATION.**

We have attached the original letter requesting the Illinois Pollution Control Board to review this matter. The letter includes reasons for amending the current regulation. Additionally, Section 811.302 Facility Location (d), which is listed under SUBPART C: PUTRESCIBLE AND CHEMICAL WASTE LANDFILLS applies to new non hazardous solid waste landfills **and already includes a hospital and school in the regulation.** It states that "...an occupied dwelling, school or hospital that was occupied on the date when the operator first applied for a permit to develop the unit or the facility containing the unit, unless the owner of such dwelling, school or hospital provides permission to the operator in writing, for a closer distance."

If you need additional materials, please call Dr. Desai at 847-615-1775 (H) or 847-356-5575 (W), or call Susan Garrett at 847-295-4001. Your consideration of this matter is appreciated by our community.

Sincerely,

Renuka Desai, M.D. and Susan Garrett

*R. Desai, M.D. / Susan Garrett*

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

JUN 13 1997

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

***R. Desai, M.D.***

Practice of Pediatrics  
Victory Professional Building  
2031 East Grand  
Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046  
708/356-5575

April 15, 1997

**Members**  
**Illinois Pollution Control Board**  
**600 South Second Street**  
**Suite 402**  
**Springfield, Il. 62704**

**Respected Members:**

I urgently request your assistance in an escalating situation which I consider unfair, unhealthy and unethical. Awareness of this problem by your board members is essential so that further damage can be prevented.

I would like to bring to your attention a regulation regarding siting of a composting facility, requiring a 660 feet distance from nearby residences. This regulation does not mention schools or athletic fields. I believe this must have been overlooked. As you know, children spend 7 - 8 hours a day in school, hours on athletic fields after school and on weekends. All of this exposure to children takes place when this compost facility is in full operation, putting children at risk.

Until we understand this complex health issue with more scientific study, and until we have state-of-the-art technology to operate this type of open air facility, it would be appropriate to keep commercial composting facilities away from children. Bad odor produced by this type of open air operation causes headaches, nausea and stomach aches. That in itself is a threat to the health and welfare of children. Only two studies have been done, both of which were inconclusive. One study recommended protective clothing and masks for the compost workers. What about our children who play in the fields that abut the compost operation? What would you recommend for their protection? **Because of the great amount of bacteria and fungi emanating from these commercial composting operations, and because of the proximity to children on a regular basis, every effort should be made to revise the regulation with the children in mind.**

I am not asking you to ban this type of facility, but instead, requesting you to consider including schools and athletic fields in the regulation and increase the distance of any composting operation, especially when there are nearby schools and fields, to 1000 feet. Until we have the guarantee of the safety of the children, we cannot allow these facilities to be located so close to schools and their accompanying playing fields.

Currently in Lake Forest we have a situation where 75% of the school athletic field is attached to this composting operation, and the school house is within 1000 feet. The way the regulation is written, the welfare of the school children is ignored.

We all know that asthma incidents are increasing all over the country. In fact, we have two children who will be attending this school next fall with cancer and many more with asthma and allergies. You must understand the importance of adding schools and athletic fields to the regulation, and ensuring a distance of a minimum of 1000 feet for schools and their adjoining fields.

**R. Desai, M.D.**

---

Practice of Pediatrics  
Victory Professional Building  
2031 East Grand  
Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046  
708/356-5575

If this compost operation was as close to a residence as it is to this school, the facility would never be allowed to operate. Why should we have a double standard, especially when those who should be protected the most - the children - are currently being ignored?

It is difficult to avoid the influence of politics, but without our integrity what are we? If we do not protect our children, who will? If this regulation has been overlooked, please consider making the necessary changes. Please consider this change in four to six weeks before this facility is granted a new permit.

I have attached a copy of a petition signed by 250 parents. Without any trouble, additional signatures can be obtained.

Thank you for your interest in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

  
Renuka N. Desai, M.D.

cc:

Honorable James Edgar, Governor  
State Senator Terry Link  
State Representative Corinne Wood  
Claire A. Manning, Chairman  
Ronald Fiemal, Member  
G. Tanner Girard, Member  
Kathleen M. Hennessey, Member  
Marill McFawn, Member  
Theodore Meyer, Member  
Joseph Yi, Member  
Mr. Cross  
Mr. Rao  
Joyce Munie (Illinois Environmental Protection Agency)



Picture of Lakeforest facility - 1996.

This facility shouldn't be next to school  
and athletic field

①



OFFICE OF THE  
**STATE'S ATTORNEY**  
 LAKE COUNTY ILLINOIS  
**MICHAEL J. WALLER**  
 STATE'S ATTORNEY

Lake County Building  
 16th County Street  
 Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4300  
 (708) 260-8444  
 Fax - (708) 260-1578

January 31, 1989

Mary A. Gada, Director  
 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
 2200 Churchill Road  
 Springfield, IL 62784-9376

Re: DK Recycling Systems, Inc., DLC File #354-95

Dear Director Gada:

I am responding to your request for referral of the above referenced enforcement case involving DK Recycling Systems, Inc.'s Lake Forest compost facility.

This office has participated in a number of enforcement matters previously, many in cooperation with the Illinois Attorney General's Office. We have had preliminary discussions with the Attorney General's Office and they have indicated a desire to prosecute this case cooperatively. I would anticipate their written approval to handle this matter jointly within a short period of time.

The Lake County State's Attorney's Office will lead the prosecution in this matter and is looking forward to working with your office. I have assigned Special Assistant Attorney Larry M. Clark to handle this case on our behalf. I believe that he has had previously contacts with Kyle Davis of your office in this matter and is well apprised of this situation. He can be reached at (847) 949-9396. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this referral.

Very truly yours,

*Michael J. Waller*  
 MICHAEL J. WALLER  
 State's Attorney of Lake County

MJW/b



# A health issue

6  
Residents have been urging the city for over seven months to work with them to find a solution.

Since last summer, residents north of Route 60 and west of Waukegan Road have been complaining about the city's composting area operated by the Lake Bluff firm DK Recycling. At first complaints centered around odor problems but as residents studied composting, they had serious questions related to potential health problems associated with compost sites.

Residents have been urging the city for over seven months to work with them to find a solution. Monday the council put a halt to accepting any more yard waste at the site until further notice. In addition, Mayor Butler appointed a committee to study the issue.

The city needs to support the committee, urge the Lake County Health Department to study the Lake Forest site and find possible alternatives to the Route 60 location.

City Manager Bob Kiely has criticized attempts to label the site a health hazard. He says there is no evidence to show that this is anything more than an odor problem. He points out the city saves a considerable amount of money by being home to the facility. Kiely's primary concern should be the health of city residents.

Extensive research shows substances formed during the composting of vegetation can be a serious health hazard to asthma sufferers and those with immune system deficiencies. In addition, the location of the site, directly behind Lake Forest Intermediate School and the adjoining athletic fields may put a large number of the city's youths at risk.

Kiely has stressed that a comprehensive study of the site is needed. He is right. It was needed last summer when the first complaints were filed.

Should the study show even a hint of a health hazard the site should be closed regardless of the financial considerations. Other alternatives should be studied and discussed in a timely manner.

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Lake Forest

Pioneer Press - 1996



# ILLINOIS CHAPTER AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

April 19, 1995

## RESIDENT

Terry F. Hatch, M.D., FAAP  
Carle Foundation Hospital  
611 W. Park Street  
Urbana, Illinois 61801  
(217) 383-3022  
(217) 383-3121-fax

Renuka Desai, M.D.  
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics  
Victory Hospital  
60 Rue Fort  
Lake Forest, IL 60045

## RESIDENT-ELECT

Thomas Herr, M.D., FAAP  
1625 23rd Avenue  
Moline, Illinois 61265-4856  
(309) 797-5437  
(309) 797-3140-fax

Dr. Desai:

The Executive Committee of the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics has reviewed your materials regarding the adverse medical impact experienced by some individuals in proximity to composting facilities. It is important that such problems be explored and that information be disseminated. In recognizing this information, the Chapter supports the following position:

## CRETARY

Richard Nachman, M.D., FAAP  
5120 N. Lincoln Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60659-2314  
312) 478-9400 or  
708) 677-2533  
312) 478-8878-fax

"We are aware that the association of certain medical problems in children with close exposure to a composting facility is currently under study. Until such time as the safety of such exposure is confirmed, the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that composting facilities be located a safe distance from school facilities."

## EASURER

Anochar L. Rathi, M.D., FAAP  
440 W. 95th Street, N232  
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453  
708) 346-5722/18  
708) 346-4272-fax

We appreciate your efforts in this area and wish to remain informed concerning your further work and exploration of alternative solutions for this problem.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Robert Biehl, M.D., FAAP  
Springfield, Illinois

Sincerely yours,

Malcolm Fishery, M.D., FAAP  
Chicago, Illinois

*Terry F. Hatch*  
Terry F. Hatch, M.D., FAAP  
President

Henry Niederman, M.D., FAAP  
Oak Park, Illinois

Henry Rich, M.D., FAAP  
Wood Dale, Illinois

Frank K. Thorp, M.D., FAAP  
Chicago, Illinois

Robert Zvolanek, M.D., FAAP  
Oak Ridge, Illinois

Donald F. Staub, M.D., FAAP  
Oakford, Illinois  
mediate Past President

American  
Academy of  
Pediatrics



141 Northwest Point Blvd  
PO Box 927  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60009-0927  
Phone 708/228-5005  
Fax 708/228-5097

Committee of the  
Section on  
Allergy and  
Immunology

April 19, 1995

Renuka Desai, M.D.  
Victory Professional Building  
2031 East Grand  
Lindenhurst, IL 60046

Dear Dr. Desai,

After reviewing the material you provided us and several published studies related to mold spores emanating from large composting facilities, we would like to strongly endorse your efforts to remove the composting unit from close proximity to your neighborhood and schools. We concur with the recommendations previously stated by Drs. Jordon Fink and Ray Slavin, who have studied this problem extensively; ie. that composting units should be a minimum of 2 miles from high population areas. Aerosols of airborne fungal spores can induce significant respiratory problems in children with allergic disease, asthma, and other chronic pulmonary disorders.

In addition, irritant gases and odors from compost piles may worsen underlying hyperreactive airways in patients with asthma. Irritants by themselves can aggravate airway hyperreactivity. Dr. O'Byrne from Canada has published numerous papers on airway hyperreactivity and irritants.

The Executive Committee of the Section of Allergy and Immunology of the American Academy of Pediatrics applauds your efforts and support the recommendation of a minimum two mile radius free of composting facilities for hospitals, schools and daycare centers. Please let me know if there is anything else we can do to support your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hugh A. Sampson".

Hugh A. Sampson, M.D.  
Professor of Pediatrics  
Chairman, Section on Allergy & Immunology  
(Johns Hopkins Uni.)

cc: Nicole Blankenship

JAMES ALLEN POLLOWITZ, M.D., F.A.C.A., F.A.A.P.  
281 GARTH ROAD  
SCARSDALE, NEW YORK 10583  
TELEPHONE (914) 472-3833

April 23, 1995

Renuka Desai, M. D.  
Victory Professional Building  
2031 East Grand  
Lindenhurst, IL 30046

Dear Dr. Desai,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the chairman of the Sub-committee on Compost Facilities of the Environmental and Occupational Disease Section of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. My comments represent my own opinion, since the subcommittee has just started its work. We intend to issue a formal position on this issue in the future.

As you know there is relevant scientific evidence concerning the health risks of composting facilities placed in residential and recreational areas. Two well documented case reports<sup>1 2</sup> demonstrate this risk. The second case report concerns a young asthmatic man who developed bronchopulmonary aspergillosis, a serious complication of his exposure to aspergillus fungi generated by the municipal compost facility 250 feet from his home.

Yard waste composting clearly generates increased levels of potential allergenic and pathogenic fungi, especially *Aspergillus fumigatus*, a thermophilic fungi which survives over a wide temperature range. Several compost industry studies demonstrate measurement of high levels of *Aspergillus* in Compost facilities<sup>3</sup>. More importantly, a recent study in Islip, New York in 1992<sup>4</sup> demonstrated that down wind levels of *Aspergillus* in a residential neighborhood (where the closest homes were 915 feet from the facility) were four times higher than those in a reference neighborhood more than five miles from the site. *Aspergillus* counts averaged 200-300/ m when the residential neighborhood was downwind, compared to 50 spores/m in the control neighborhood. Recently I personally participated in a brief sampling study involving a yard compost facility in Scarsdale New York. We found counts of 671 and 1045 on a residential property 200 yards from the facility. Simultaneous control counts at a location ten miles away were 373 and

<sup>1</sup> W Vincken, P Roels, Hypersensitivity pneumonitis due to *Aspergillus fumigatus* in compost *Thorax* 39:74-75, 1984.

<sup>2</sup> M Kramer et al, Allergic Bronchopulmonary Aspergillosis from a Contaminated Dump Site *Am Rev Respir Dis* 140:1086-1088, 1989.

<sup>3</sup> P D Milner et al, Bioaerosols associated with composting facilities *Compost Science and Utilization* 2:4-55, 1994.

<sup>4</sup> Department of Health, State of New York *A Prospective Study of Health Symptoms and Bioaerosol Levels Near a Yard Waste Composting Facility* March, 1994.

Jay A. Freed, M.D., F.A.A.P.  
Marvin A. Lieber, M.D., F.A.A.P.  
Arnold W. Scherz, M.D., F.A.A.P.  
Mitchell Kleinberg, M.D. F.A.A.P.  
Michael P. Nussbaum, M.D., F.A.A.P.  
Robert Festa, M.D. F.A.A.P.  
Debra Fisher, R.P.A.C.

**PRACTICE LIMITED TO PEDIATRICS & ADOLESCENT MEDICINE**

270 Union Avenue  
Holbrook, New York 11741  
(516) 588-4442

118 N. Country Road  
Port Jefferson, New York 11777  
(516) 331-6200

911 Montauk Highway  
Shirley, New York 11967  
(516) 281-2525

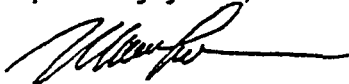
January 24, 1995  
Dr. Desai  
60 Rue Foret  
Lake Forest, Illinois 60045

Dear Dr. Desai;

In March 1994 a study was done by the State of New York, Department of Health, to determine the affect of a local Composting Facility on the surrounding neighborhood. It was their conclusion that "Exposure to *A. fumigatus* spores can cause allergy and asthma symptoms in susceptible individuals as well as more serious and life threatening diseases among individuals whose immune systems are suppressed(immuno-compromised)". The study further concluded, "Composting facilities should not be cited close to hospitals or other health care facilities where extreme precautions are being taken to prevent infection of severely immuno-compromised patients".

Unfortunately, hospitals are not alone having severely imuno-compromised patients. Some of these patients reside in local nursing homes, or are being cared for at home. Therefore it would seem that these Composting Facilities present a risk in any residential area. Logically it would make sense to remove these facilities from residential areas and to move them far enough away to insure that they do not present any risk to residential neighborhoods.

Respectfully yours;



Marvin Lieber, M.D.F.A.A.P.

## ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

(A-95)

Introduced by: Luben Atzeff, M.D., Clair Callan, M.D., Gerald Frank  
M.D., George Goldstein, M.D., Mark Hill, M.D., Jim  
McClure, M.D., James Milam, M.D., James Monahan, M.D.,  
Thomas Porter, M.D., for the Lake County Medical Society

Subject: Municipal and Commercial Composting Facilities

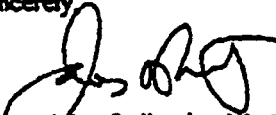
Referred to:

- 1 Whereas, The use of compost facilities has increased due to recent legislation  
2 banning yard waste from landfills and requiring counties to develop solid waste  
3 reduction plans; and  
4
- 5 Whereas, Compost facilities are a fertile source for the growth of pathogenic  
6 fungi, especially aspergillus; and  
7
- 8 Whereas, There is ample evidence that pulmonary disease due to aspergillus can  
9 result from exposure to the organism emanating from compost facilities; and  
10
- 11 Whereas, A study by the State of New York, Department of Health, to determine the  
12 affect of a local composting facility on the surrounding neighborhood concluded  
13 that, "Exposure to *A. fumigatus* spores can cause allergy and asthma symptoms in  
14 susceptible individuals as well as more serious and life threatening diseases  
15 among individuals whose immune systems are suppressed(immuno compromised)"; and  
16
- 17 Whereas, There is a significant risk of producing disease in previously healthy  
18 individuals living or working near open air composting activity; and  
19
- 20 Whereas, People all over the country who are living nearby compost sites have  
21 experienced similar symptoms, such as, recurrent sinus problems, increased  
22 incidence of asthma, skin and eye irritations, headaches, dizziness, pneumonia,  
23 extreme fatigue, and nose bleeds; and  
24
- 25 Whereas, Many compost facilities are located within a close proximity of public  
26 schools and residential areas; therefore, be it  
27
- 28 Resolved, That the Illinois State Medical Society encourage legislation  
29 prohibiting municipal or commercial compost facilities within a two mile radius  
30 of any school or residential area; and be it further  
31
- 32 Resolved, That the Illinois State Medical Society introduce similar resolution  
33 to the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates.  
34

property 200 yards from the facility. Simultaneous control counts at a location ten miles away were 373 and 319 spores/m.<sup>3</sup> Informal surveys of health problems especially respiratory conditions such as asthma, pneumonia, and upper airway conditions appear to be much higher than expected in residential areas adjacent to these facilities.

As you know, there are presently over 3,000 yard waste facilities in the United States. Given present governmental mandates this number will increase significantly over the next decade. Given the very real health concerns concerning this issue, it is imperative that physicians urge caution on the placement of these facilities. Since patients at risk for disseminated *Aspergillus* infection are immunosuppressed, these facilities should not be placed near hospitals or nursing homes. Allergic individuals comprise 20-25% of the U. S. Population; they are at greater risk for fungal related diseases especially those patients who have bronchial asthma. For this reason I strongly support your proposal to limit yard compost facility placement to areas at least two (2) miles from residences, schools, medical facilities, and recreational areas.

Sincerely



James Allen Pollowitz, M. D.  
Chairman, sub-committee on compost sites  
Environmental and Occupational Allergy Section  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

---

<sup>2</sup> J Fiorella, J Pollowitz Unpublished data, Mold sampling in Scarsdale and Bedford, N. Y. Nov. 14-15, 1994.



MEDICAL  
COLLEGE  
OF WISCONSIN

Jordan N. Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Medicine  
Chief, Allergy-Immunology Division

Kevin J. Kelly M.D.  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine  
Chief, Pediatric Allergy

Robert H. Fisher, M.D.  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Asthma & Allergy Center  
Allergy-Immunology Division  
Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics

January 31, 1995

Renuka N. Desai, M.D.  
2031 East Grand  
Lidenhurst, IL 60046

Dear Dr. Desai:

As you are aware, in October 1989 I participated in a publication in the American Review of Respiratory Diseases reporting a case of aspergillosis attributed to a nearby municipal leaf compost site. We suggested at that time, based on the microbiologic data in that case, that "consideration should be given to locating compost sites...more than two miles from residential areas in order to minimize potential microbial contamination of the environment."

Sincerely,



Jordan N. Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Medicine  
Chief, Allergy/Immunology  
Medical College of Wisconsin





**SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER**

**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

1402 S. Grand Blvd., R209  
St. Louis, MO 63104-1028  
314/577-8456  
FAX 314/577-8459

February 7, 1995

**Department of Internal Medicine  
Division of Allergy and Immunology**

Raymond G. Slavin, M.D., Director  
Michael R. Borts, M.D.  
Mark S. Dykewicz, M.D.  
Ellen Garibaldi, M.D.  
Alan P. Knutsen, M.D.

R. N. Desai, M.D.  
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics  
Victory Professional Building  
2031 East Grand  
Lindenhurst, IL 60046

Dear Dr. Desai:

I received your note regarding the placement of compost facilities in the community. I have done research in the past showing that compost piles are very rich sources of aspergillus and other molds. There are good studies indicating that aspergillus spores in particular that may be a cause of human disease, may travel fairly long distances. It is therefore advised that compost facilities not be placed within a two mile radius of schools, hospitals, nursing homes, etc.

Sincerely yours,

Raymond G. Slavin, M.D.  
Professor of Internal Medicine  
Director, Division of Allergy & Immunology

RGS/mae

# American Medical Association

Physicians dedicated to the health of America



Robert E. McAfee, MD  
President

515 North State Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60610

312 464-4466  
312 464-5543 Fax

February 16, 1995

Renuka N. Desai, M.D.  
Victory Professional Building  
2031 East Grand  
Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046

Dear Dr. Desai,

Thank you for the informational materials that describe potential adverse health effects of composting. I understand that you have already contacted James M. Lyznicki, M.S., M.P.H. of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health to discuss this issue. Please continue to direct your correspondence to Mr. Lyznicki, who can be contacted at 312-464-4520.

The American Medical Association appreciates your continued concern and persistence with this issue and supports your efforts to educate health professionals and government officials about this neglected public health problem.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert E. McAfee".

Robert E. McAfee, M.D.

American  
Academy of  
Pediatrics



41 Northwest Point Blvd  
PO Box 927  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60009-0927  
Phone 708/228-5005  
Fax 708/228-5097

Reply To:  
George D. Comerci, MD  
121 E Tanque Verde Road  
Suite 105-321  
Tucson, AZ 85749-8819  
02/749-3133  
Fax 602/749-8742

resident  
George D. Comerci, MD ✓  
Vice President  
Aurice E. Keenan, MD  
Past President  
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Boulder, Colorado  
Ronald A. Kutnik, MD  
San Diego, California

February 6, 1995

Renuka Desai, MD, FAAP  
60 Rue Foret  
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Dear Dr. Desai:

It was good to talk with you today regarding your concerns about the increasing implementation of composting facilities in communities close to where children live, play, and go to school. I share your concerns about the possibility of environmental contaminants, particularly microorganisms such as *A. fumigatus*. I'm especially concerned about any children that may be immunocompromised, either because of therapy with steroids or because of other illness.

I support you in your work to bring this to the attention of physicians, pediatricians, and, in particular, the public.

May I suggest that you prepare an article for AAP News outlining your concerns and recommendations. The article should be relatively short and I would suggest you send it on to Mr. Ray Koteris at the Academy headquarters in Elk Grove Village. It will certainly get the attention of our members.

In addition to an article in AAP News, it would be good for you to consider submitting a resolution to the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. May I suggest that you contact Dr. Terry Hatch, who is president of the Illinois Chapter. Ask his advice as to how to go about getting this resolution submitted and approved and supported by the Illinois Chapter.

Finally, I would suggest that you ask Mr. Koteris to bring this problem to the attention of Dr. J. Routh Reigart, who is chairperson of the Committee on Environmental Health.

Thank you very much for bringing this problem to my attention. I believe the above actions by you will help bring this to the attention of pediatricians and, hopefully, result in necessary legislation.

Sincerely, *George D. Comerci*  
George D. Comerci, MD, FAAP

cc: Raymond Koteris  
Ed Ledbetter  
Linda Martin



# UPDATE

Contact: Terry Hammond (404) 639-3902

July 19, 1994

## NIOSH WARNS OF AGRICULTURAL HAZARDS

### Organic Dust Toxic Syndrome



*Worker wearing appropriate respiratory protection during exposure to organic dust.*

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) warns agricultural workers that they may be at risk for developing organic dust toxic syndrome (ODTS), a common respiratory illness that may follow exposures to heavy concentrations of organic dust contaminated with microorganisms. Workers are typically exposed to this dust when shoveling or moving organic materials such as oats, wood chips, composted leaves, and silage.

An estimated 30% to 40% of workers exposed to organic dust will develop the disease. Yet, despite its common occurrence, ODTS is not a widely recognized illness. "It is probable that thousands of workers have been affected by a disease they knew nothing about," said NIOSH Director Dr. Linda Rosenstock. "Moreover, many have been misdiagnosed and received unnecessary or inappropriate treatment. Preventing this illness will be much more likely when workers and physicians are aware of the syndrome, its causes, and its symptoms," she stressed.

The syndrome is characterized by fever occurring 4 to 12 hours after exposure and flu-like symptoms such as general weakness, headache, chills, body aches, and cough. Shortness of breath may also occur. In addition, pulmonary function may be impaired, and an increase in the number of white cells in the blood is common. Listening to the chest usually reveals normal breathing sounds, and chest X-rays are usually normal. Antibodies typically associated with certain allergic lung diseases such as farmer's lung are usually not present.

ODTS usually disappears within 24 hours to a few days after the worker is removed from the exposure. No specific therapy is needed to treat ODTS. However, the syndrome may often be misdiagnosed as acute bronchitis, influenza, or farmer's lung disease, which may lead to unnecessary or excessive therapy with antibiotics or anti-inflammatory medication.

Agricultural workers and employers should minimize the risk of exposure to organic dust by taking the following precautions:

- Be aware of the adverse health effects of breathing organic dust.
- Inform your doctor about recent dust exposures when seeking treatment for respiratory illness.
- Carefully harvest and store agricultural products to minimize spoilage.
- Use automated or mechanized equipment to move decayed materials.
- Use engineering controls such as source containment, local exhaust ventilation, and wet methods of dust suppression to minimize exposure to organic dust.
- Use appropriate respirators approved by NIOSH when exposure to organic dust cannot be avoided.

-continued-



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

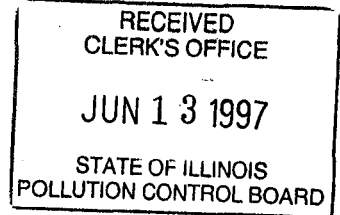


**R. Desai, M.D.**

Practice of Pediatrics  
Victory Professional Building  
2031 East Grand  
Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046  
708/356-5575

May 5, 1997

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



To the Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

Pursuant to the 35 Illinois Administrative Code, Section 102.120 and 102.121(a), I am submitting a proposal to amend the *Location Standards for Landscape Waste Compost Facilities* (Section 830.203 (c)), as follows:

**The composting area of the facility must be LOCATED SO AS TO MINIMIZE INCOMPATIBILITY WITH THE CHARACTER OF THE SURROUNDING AREA INCLUDING AT LEAST A 200 FOOT SETBACK FROM ANY RESIDENCE, AND IN THE CASE OF A FACILITY THAT IS DEVELOPED OR THE PERMITTED COMPOSTING AREA OF WHICH IS EXPANDED AFTER NOVEMBER 17, 1991. THE COMPOSTING AREA shall be LOCATED AT LEAST 1/8 MILE FROM THE NEAREST RESIDENCE (OTHER THAN A RESIDENCE LOCATED ON THE SAME PROPERTY AS THE FACILITY, AND A MINIMUM OF 1/2 MILE FROM THE PROPERTY LINE OF A HOSPITAL, SCHOOL, AN ATHLETIC FIELD AND A PUBLIC PARK. EXISTING COMPOSTING OPERATIONS THAT ARE LOCATED WITHIN 1/2 MILE OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED FACILITIES SHALL BE RELOCATED TO MORE THAN 1/2 MILE WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS REGULATION.**

We have attached the original letter requesting the Illinois Pollution Control Board to review this matter. The letter includes reasons for amending the current regulation. Additionally, Section 811.302 Facility Location (d), which is listed under SUBPART C: PUTRESCIBLE AND CHEMICAL WASTE LANDFILLS applies to new non hazardous solid waste landfills **and already includes a hospital and school in the regulation.** It states that "...an occupied dwelling, school or hospital that was occupied on the date when the operator first applied for a permit to develop the unit or the facility containing the unit, unless the owner of such dwelling, school or hospital provides permission to the operator in writing, for a closer distance."

If you need additional materials, please call Dr. Desai at 847-615-1775 (H) or 847-356-5575 (W), or call Susan Garrett at 847-295-4001. Your consideration of this matter is appreciated by our community.

Sincerely,

Renuka Desai, M.D. and Susan Garrett

*R. Desai, M.D. / Susan Garrett*

Your  
Local

# NEWS

## District 115 fills school board vacancies

Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education has announced the appointment of William R. Hinchman Jr. and Dr. Gregory B. Brown to the board of education. Hinchman and Brown will fill vacancies created by the resignations of Terry L. Marsh and Barbara J. Garrity, both of whom have moved out of state.

Hinchman, 61, retired from First Chicago two



Brown

years ago, having functioned primarily in the areas of credit policy and corporate lending strategy. His banking career began in 1953 at Chase Manhattan Bank in New York where, over a 24-year-period, he held a wide range of executive positions including managing Chase's Global Banking training and development activities for newly hired college and graduate students, and heading its corporate-wide human resource functions.

He is a graduate of Rutgers University with a degree in business administration and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He has served on the advisory board of Cornell University's Graduate School of Business and the faculty of the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at SMU, and was Chase's principal recruitment liaison with the Harvard Business School.

Hinchman, from the Fourth Ward, is an eight-year resident of Lake Forest. He and his wife, Martha, have a daughter at

Lake Forest Intermediate School.

### Brown

Brown, 41, is vice president of Vector Securities International, an investment banking company in Deerfield. He has an M.B.A. from Harvard, an M.D. from State University of New York Health Science Center in Syracuse and an A.B. from Yale. A thoracic surgeon, he practiced medicine for seven years before changing careers.

Highlights of his board and committee experience include: secretary and member of the board of trustees and member of the Board of Censors of the Medical Society of the County of Oneida, Utica, New York; chairman of the department of surgery at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Utica; member of the board of directors of Mohawk Valley Business & Industry Health Care Coalition; founder, president and member of the Board of Directors of Central New York IPA Inc., Utica; and

member of the Committee on Health Care Delivery Systems, for the Medical Society of the State of New York.

A resident of the Second Ward, Brown has lived in Lake Forest for two and a half years. He and his wife, Donna, have two children in District 67 schools and one child at Lake Forest High School.

"The Lake Forest High School board and the Lake Forest Caucus cooperated energetically as a team in interviewing the candidates," said Board President Thomas P. O'Mara. "The Caucus played an important role in the selection process. Its members worked diligently to bring us names of candidates for consideration. Ultimately nine finalists were chosen," he said.

"Hinchman and Brown both have strong educational backgrounds," O'Mara said. "There is a shared excitement about what these highly qualified men will bring to the board to help us ensure that Lake Forest High School is con-



Hinchman

sidered among the best high schools in the country."

O'Mara praised Terry Marsh and Barbara Garrity for their service while on the board.

"Terry and Barbara made an outstanding contribution to the board. We shall miss them for their legal expertise which so soundly guided their judgment in dealing with board concerns. We shall miss them for their dedication, for

(Continued on page 16)

## Lake Forest doctor vows to limit compost sites

By JIM TEAGUE Jr.  
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Renuka Desai has vowed to see that a law prohibiting the location of a compost landfill site within two miles of a school building goes on the books in the not too distant future.

"It's not fair to the children, not fair at all," Desai said recently. "It should be more than two to three miles (that compost sites should be kept from school buildings)."

Desai is a pediatrician and resident of the Dieu Foret subdivision on the north side of state Route 50. Her home is within a few hundred yards of the City of Lake Forest Recycling Center and the compost landfill site operated there by DK Recycling.

Since this summer, Desai has been among the local residents who have complained consistently about odors coming from the site.

### Local meeting

On Dec. 14 she hosted a meeting of local residents, Lake Forest Director of Parks, Forestry and Public Works Tom Naatz, Lake County Health Department officials, and representatives of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Naatz said this week that he and the other officials were at Desai's meeting to listen.

"I think it was just an exchange of ideas in a

action may be," Naatz said.

Asked if he thought Desai could move forward on her plan to change the law, Naatz responded that "Everything is a possibility.

"The people were very attentive to whatever was said. They were there to listen also. It really was her meeting. All they did was respond to what she proposed by answering her questions."

Desai said she believed her meeting accomplished a lot.

"These people met with us and we needed

**"I have been calling all over the country and talking to people who have studied this issue."**

answers," she said. "It was a very good meeting. This is what they should have done."

The "they" Desai was referring to was the City of Lake Forest.

At a Dec. 6 public forum hosted by the City on the compost situation, Desai said she had to be taken to the hospital the previous weekend because the odors from the site had sickened her so severely.

At that meeting, she disputed claims by local officials and a public health expert that the compost site poses no health risk to the school children or to those who live nearby who are

otherwise healthy individuals.

"I have been calling all over the country and talking to people who have studied this issue," Desai said, adding that those she has spoken to are not convinced that no health risks are present.

### Complaints

Her chief complaint, however, is with the Lake County Health Department.

She said officials there have not been consistent in their enforcement of the compliance procedures for compost sites.

The health department is responsible for inspecting the compost site on a regular basis. Desai agreed that the inspections have taken place, but said that if a site is creating odors it should not receive an inspection report that says it is in compliance with the law.

"How can they be in compliance if there is still an odor," she said.

Desai said she wants the laws changed to prohibit the compost site being near a school. The Lake Forest site is within 700 yards of the Lake Forest Intermediate School to the east.

Her own children attend a private school in another community, but Desai said she is concerned about her neighbors.

"They should ask the children how they feel about it. We are basically abusing our children... I really want to change the law and I am working on that very hard to change the law."

Kenneth Dobin  
3621 NW 114th Lane  
Coral Springs Fl 33065  
(305) 752 5016

~~NOBODY~~ Child should  
suffer the way  
Harry Dobin did!  
It's not fair!

*R*

February 26, 1995

Dr. Dasai

This past week I learned about your concerns regarding a compost site in your area. Believe me, you certainly should be concerned! My son, Harry Dobin, worked 1000 feet away from a compost site in Islip, New York for 5 years. Until suddenly, he became ill.

From July 1991 until January, 1992, the doctors treated him for asthma, arthritis, Weggener's disease, Lyme disease, kidney disorder, and bronchitis. Finally, in January 1992 when he could no longer breathe, they performed an open lung biopsy and discovered this fungus called aspergillosis had invaded his lungs. But, after being exposed for such a long period of time to this compost site, which is a natural breeding ground for this fungus, which took over my sons' entire body. No antibiotic could stop this fungus. Every time the doctor's thought he was cured, it showed up somewhere else in his body.

First his lungs, then he had an Aneurism, then in his spine, then in his legs, (which they wanted to amputate). After 15 months, this fungus destroyed him completely. It finally went to his heart valve and at that time the doctors decided not to remove his legs or replace the heart valve, but we should make him as comfortable as possible and let Harry pass on and end his suffering.

On September 23, 1992, five days after this fungus invaded his heart valve and legs, my son, Harry, died.

From January 1992 until his death, Harry was hospitalized for the most horrible illness imaginable. I will never forget his suffering.

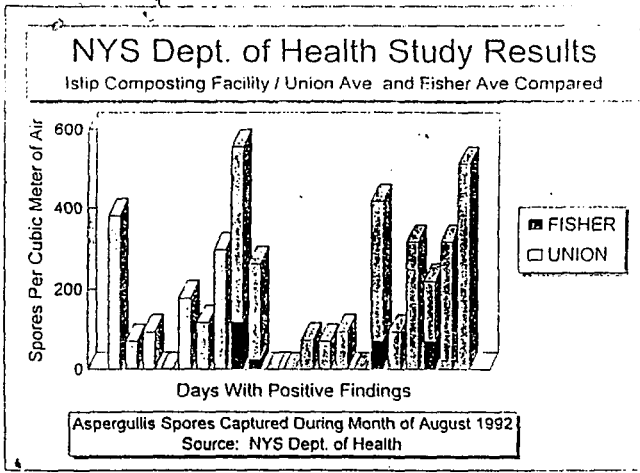
We have recently filed a multi-million dollar lawsuit against Islip Township for their negligence in so many complaints of illnesses blames on this site in previous years.

They ask, can we prove my son's death is linked to this compost site? YES, we have documentation from the foremost experts in this field. Biochemists, infectious disease doctors from Cornell University and also the foremost expert, whose life research is Aspergillosis.

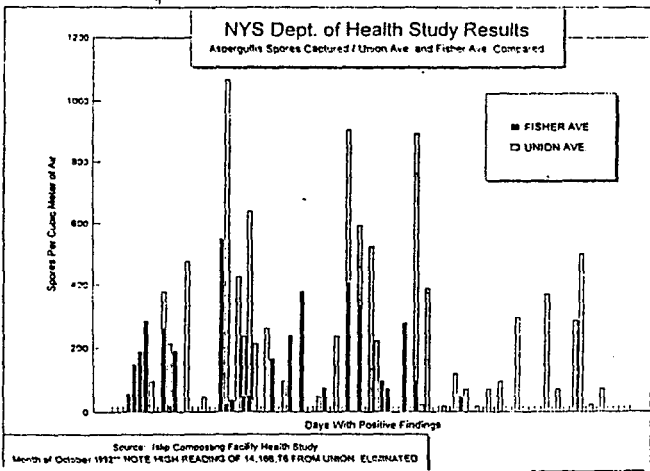
Sincerely yours,

*Kenneth Dobin*  
Kenneth Dobin

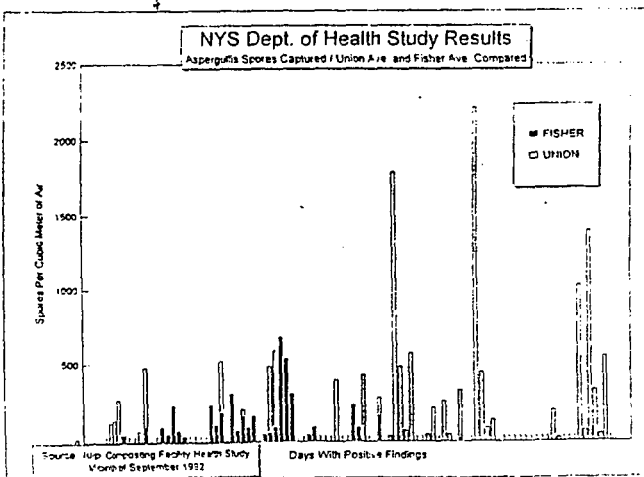
similar cases have been  
reported in medical literature  
which will be presented during



High levels were found  
upto 600'.



High levels were found  
upto 1100'.

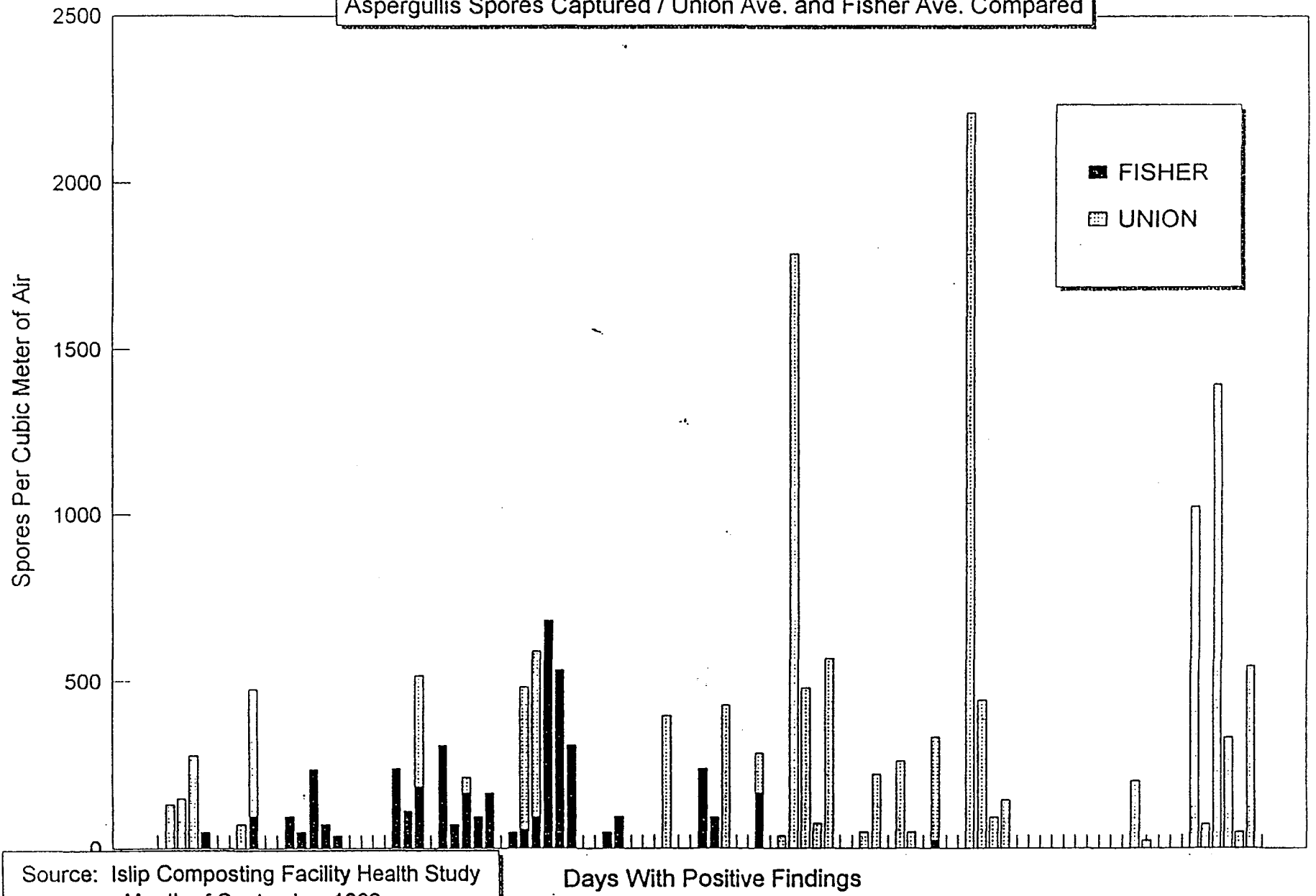


High levels were found  
upto 2200'.



# NYS Dept. of Health Study Results

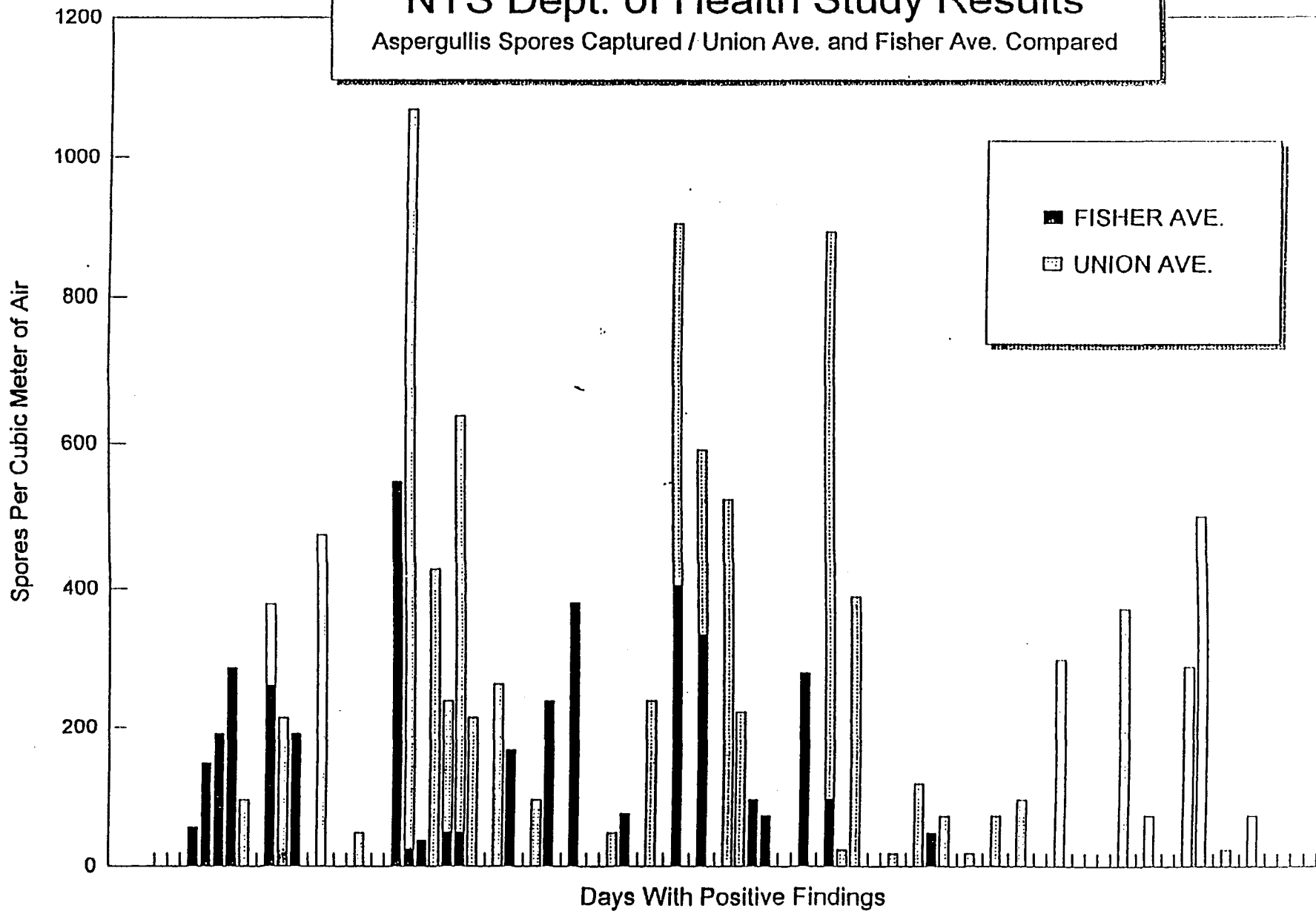
## Aspergillus Spores Captured / Union Ave. and Fisher Ave. Compared



Source: Islip Composting Facility Health Study  
Month of September 1992

# NYS Dept. of Health Study Results

## Aspergillus Spores Captured / Union Ave. and Fisher Ave. Compared



Source: Islip Composting Facility Health Study  
 Month of October 1992\*\* NOTE HIGH READING OF 14,166.76 FROM UNION ELIMINATED