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Illinois Pollution Control Board Public Comment File Case PCB 2006-184 100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 11-500 Chicago, IL 60601

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

To the Public Comment File, Case 2006-184:

I understand that the original May 17<sup>th</sup> deadline for IPCB's ruling on Peoria Disposal Company's appeal was extended in anticipation of a so-called "global settlement" between Peoria County and Peoria Disposal Company.

Peoria County's local siting act requires and encourages public participation. The hearings, testimony and public comment from last spring evinced an extraordinary degree of public interest and generated unprecedented participation by the citizens of Peoria County.

Clearly, any legitimate global settlement must also include meaningful public participation. Nonetheless, the public has been barred from participating in this so-called global settlement, which has been pursued in secret meetings between Peoria County Staff and Peoria Disposal Company and in a series of executive sessions of the Peoria County Board conducted out of public view under the veil of "ongoing litigation."

In addition to there having been no public meetings, there is no information being made available to the general public regarding this purported "global settlement." What information is available off the record does nothing to indicate that what the Peoria County Board had found unsafe, unnecessary and incompatible is now safe, necessary or compatible.

I pray that your deliberations on this matter not be influenced by a perception that there is anything global about the back-room deal being negotiated out of public view.

Yours very truly,

Peter W. Offutt, Ph.D.