

7,000 PETITION  
6,200 signatures,  
and growing.  
KALC counts.

~~Swamp~~ River Reservoir

January, 2004  
" " 2005

Front side  
of petition

## Hazards of the PDC Hazardous Waste Landfill

Peoria Disposal Co. is seeking a permit from the county board to *greatly* expand its toxic waste landfill on the city's west edge (bounded by Rt. 8, Forrest Hill, Molleck, and Reservoir Rds.) and *operate it for at least 15 more years*. It is the only one left in the Greater Midwest, one of only 14 left in the nation, and has received highly toxic waste from 15 states. It is the most important issue facing the city-county -- and its future. 95% of the direct impact would be to the city. But the city's health is also the county's.

\*There are 843 toxic chemicals -- many the most toxic known to man short of nuclear waste -- that the Illinois EPA permits PDC to bury in this 74-acre landfill. The EPA requires testing groundwater for just 20 of them -- and has PDC itself do most testing.

\*But there is no EPA testing for air pollution from the landfill, though chemicals do volatilize through soil into our air, indeed, PDC has stack pipes in its landfill to vent gases.

\*A recent joint 5-country study in Europe found that babies born of mothers living within 2 miles of hazardous waste landfills had 40% more birth defects and 33% more of other abnormalities [The Lancet 1/26/02. Countries were Britain, Denmark, France, Belgium, Italy]. A New Jersey study revealed twice as many premature births, ascribed to airborne fumes. In 2005 a New York state study revealed 15% more strokes in adults near such landfills.

\*Peoria has a dense population (over 25,000) living downwind from and within a 2-mile radius of the PDC landfill (from Farmington Rd., University Ave., and Charter Oak and Big Hollow Rds). This area includes 265 residential streets lined with single and multi-family homes and apartments -- plus Bradley University. BUT its effect goes far beyond.

\*Groundwater contamination is a longterm concern. It travels for miles. This landfill adjoins the aquifer from which much (60%) of the city water supply is drawn. Also, it is close to Kickapoo Creek and Illinois River. Chemical toxins can last for centuries, "forever," experts warn. But the plastic and clay landfill liners are shortlived. And monitoring methods "are not" fail-safe. "Every landfill leaks," states Robert Kennedy Jr.

\*PDC's current EPA permit allows 2.6 million cubic yards of waste and expires in 2006. According to published reports, it wants to *add* more states and at least six (6) million more cubic yards (2 million tons) over the next 15 years. That would fill 158 of one of the 30-story Peoria Twin Tower buildings. Do we want a mountain of highly toxic waste from *throughout* the Midwest and beyond in the heart of the county and on the city's doorstep?

DEFINITION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE in state law: Waste which "may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or... serious, irreversible... debilitating illness, or pose a substantial... hazard to human health or the environment."

### WHAT WE WANT:

- \*\*Reject expansion of the landfill. (Peoria County Board has for Pollution Control Board this.)
- \*\*Begin now the permanent closure of this landfill while we are alert to the problems.
- \*\*Become a community voice urging the state and nation to require and accelerate development of means to (a) detoxify hazardous waste and (b) recycle it to beneficial uses instead of burying it in the ground where it remains hazardous and a menace.

- Compiled from many sources by Tom L. Edwards

To: Ill. Pollution Control Board - Case PCB 2006-184

PC#234

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APR 11 2007

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

From: Tom Edwards  
902 W. Moss Ave  
Peoria, IL 61606  
This was what started the whole thing 3 1/2 years ago.