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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

November 8, 2007

Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 W. Randolph St., Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601

PC#

Re: Case # 08 25

Thank you for holding a hearing in Peoria November 6, 2007, regarding the Peoria Disposal Company (PDC) appeal to declare their facility a generator of its own waste, and thus exempt from citing authority.

The issue at hand is an attempt to bypass the will of the Community – the County Board decision – the Illinois Pollution Board decision – to not allow the expansion of the toxic waste facility, through reinventing themselves to take advantage of a loophole.

This is a toxic waste dump. By any other name, that is still what it is – a toxic waste dump. Call it a Hazardous Waste Site. It still means the same thing. And the idea that PDC ‘generates’ its own waste is ludicrous. They receive toxic waste from over a dozen other states – some of it the most hazardous types possible – apply a treatment that is supposed to render it safe to bury (and how many times have you picked up the newspaper to discover a supposedly ‘safe’ chemical or drug has been pulled from the market because it has been found to have dangerous, previously unknown properties?) and bury it above sand beds connected to our aquifer. And make millions of dollars each year polluting our environment.

If PDC had taken the money they have spent to force their will upon the State of Illinois – and make no doubt that is what they are doing – they could have re-located their dump to an uninhabited location – like a desert – where the lives, health, and welfare of citizens could not be put in danger. Or put the money toward research for a way to recycle the waste and make it profitable. But, nooo. They want to continue doing business the way they have over the past 30 years. And would rather spend the money in an effort to force us to ‘live with it’.

How will tens of thousands of people exist without safe water? Peoria County will make Three-Mile-Island look inconsequential in comparison. The mid-west is the Bread Basket of the Nation – we grow food that feeds millions of people. It is just not worth the risk to allow a company to use semantics to force us to accept an unacceptable risk!

I realize the issue you must address is solely that of whether or not PDC generates its own waste. I firmly believe – regardless of any other consideration – that this attempt is a last-ditch effort to take advantage of a possible loophole. PDC does NOT generate its own waste. It makes no separate product that it can sell which, in that production generates waste. And the only rationale for generating waste is in the production of a product that can be sold.

Sincerely,

Carol VanWinkle