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DEC 03 2007

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

A few weeks ago I made my annual pilgrimage to Grandview Drive to see the autumn colors of autumn. I stood at one of the high points along the drive and once again was mesmerized by the cascading layers of gold, yellow and bronze with many shades in between that tumbled down to the flashing waters of the Illinois River. I remember thinking how blessed we are to have this treasure right here at our doorstep. This Grandview must be one of the most beautiful places in Illinois. How many millions of years did it take to create this visual masterpiece? I also know that beneath these waters are vast underground aquifers that contain much more water and much cleaner water than the Illinois River. This is an even greater treasure because clean water is absolutely essential to the wellbeing of every man woman and child in this area. Any future growth is also dependent on clean safe water. The well from which I draw my water is connected to the aquifer that provides water to the living community of Peoria.

As I observed this breathtaking sight a disturbing realization came to me. All is not well with river or the precious aquifer. A brew of toxic chemicals rests over our water supply and with one human error, one human miscalculation these life threatening chemicals could leak into the aquifer and forever alter the health and lives of many innocent people. Cancer can take many years to develop and if it is due to these chemicals leaking into the aquifer from the Peoria Disposal Companies tons of toxic brew how can a person prove that it came from their leak? We are giving our children a terrible legacy for if the PDC is allowed to expand their contribution of toxic chemicals including PCB's (which are toxic at any level) future generations will have to be perpetually vigilant. PDC cannot guarantee that accidents will never occur. The more deadly waste they are allowed to bring in the greater the chance that an accident will occur. Can the PDC guarantee that they will always stay in business and 24 hours a day 7 days a week that they will constantly keep watch over an ever expanding, potential health catastrophe? I think not. It seems their stubborn need for profit has made them blind to the awful ramifications of what they are asking for. If this waste disposal site were initially starting up today it would never be granted a license to deposit its waste in such a sensitive area. They have chosen to ignore the will of the people as expressed through the Peoria County Board and are trying to run roughshod over our health and wellbeing. They are using a tricky legal maneuver to change their name to a waste generator so they can get around the right of the people of Peoria and surrounding communities to protect themselves from a possible life threatening situation. I am asking PDC to take the massive amounts of money they are spending on lawyers (three at the last hearing) and all the legal games they are playing and put the money into developing a waste disposal site that does not threaten so many innocent people. Remember long after PDC has gone the toxins will still be there. Who will continue to keep watch over the mess and who will end up having to pay for future accidents? AS a recent example I will mention a certain asbestos plant that for years was dumping waste in the surrounding rivers and streams up above Waukegan Illinois. The company went bankrupt but the asbestos fibers continued to wash up on the beaches of Illinois Beach State Park for years after. This carcinogenic material traveled down the lake and was detected at Oak Street Beach in Chicago, Illinois. It was found in the sand and in the water. The company who caused the problem is long gone. It would be extremely difficult to clean up the beaches if not impossible. If they do try to clean it up the taxpayer will be footing the bill. Meanwhile people who play at the beaches will inevitably breathe in some of these cancer causing fibers and even though they

might not develop asbestosis or lung plaques immediately it could develop years later. Let us not repeat the same disaster.

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