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November 18, 2010

Illinois Pollution Control Board
James Thompson Center
100 W Randolph Suites 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601

Case Number PCB2010-103

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board Clerk:

The DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC) is on record in support of the expansion of the DeKalb County Landfill. We appeared at the hearings for the expansion last spring and, for the benefit of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, we wish to communicate our support of the landfill's expansion.

Our organization, supported by over 225 businesses and governmental bodies, focuses on expanding the County's employment and economic base. We believe the expansion of the DeKalb County Landfill owned and operated by Waste Management of Illinois, Inc. helps achieve that goal.

The landfill expansion benefits the DeKalb area by providing long-term, in-county disposal capacity without incurring additional cost to transport waste out of the county for disposal. The DeKalb County Landfill serves construction companies, industries, townships, cities and other waste disposal companies. These services are essential to the County's businesses and communities. The expansion will provide an additional 46 years of disposal capacity, supporting economic and community development.

Establishing future disposal capacity is important to attract and support commercial and industrial investment, new businesses and jobs. Companies weighing whether to select DeKalb County for business consider waste disposal capacity and its costs in evaluating the infrastructure, services and the cost of doing business. Long-term disposal capacity within DeKalb County assures decision-makers that disposal costs will be predictable, stable and competitive.

As demonstrated at the public hearings, Waste Management plans to design, construct and operate the landfill in a manner that protects the public health, safety and welfare of DeKalb County residents. An older part of the landfill, developed before the installation of engineered liners and leachate management systems, will be exhumed, excavated and redeveloped with a liner system. The expanded area will be engineered, constructed and operated with a state-of-the-art liner; leachate and surface water management systems; methane gas collection and recycling systems; as well as final cover, landscaping and the potential for recreational use. Finally, the location of the site in a predominantly rural area minimizes the impact on surrounding property values.

The proposed landfill expansion also is consistent with DeKalb County's Solid Waste Management Plan providing for long-term disposal of non-recycled waste in the County and a negotiated Host Agreement with DeKalb County for the acceptance of out-of-county waste. The Host Agreement provides numerous benefits to the County including environmental assurances; financial assurances; guaranteed disposal capacity for DeKalb County waste; a property value guarantee plan (for property owners within one mile of the expansion); and maintenance of recycling drop-off stations. The Host Agreement provides for the collection of a host fee which will benefit the County and its residents by providing financial resources for critical and required services.

Waste Management has been a long-standing contributing member of DCEDC. As part of the Host Agreement, Waste Management has agreed to continue working with DCEDC by: providing design, operation and disposal information to business prospects; making a one-time contribution of \$80,000; and serving as an active partner by contributing annually. DCEDC depends on contributions like this to expand the economy and tax base of the County. Similarly DCEDC depends on critical infrastructure resources with competitive operating costs like waste disposal capacity to attract business and industry.

For these reasons DCEDC expresses its support for the expansion of the DeKalb County Landfill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Borek". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "P" and "B".

Paul J. Borek
Executive Director