

JOIN IN SOLIDARITY

Peoria Disposal Co. has appealed to Illinois Pollution Control Board to overturn the Peoria County Boards' 12 to 6 decision to deny expansion of its' hazardous toxic waste land landfill. **The IPCB is to hand down its' decision on May 17, 2007.** This date could be changed. **PCB-189**

RIGHT NOW take advantage of this once in a lifetime 'Golden Opportunity' to speak out for a righteous cause. At stake is pollution of our water, air, and earth. *Our health is more precious than gold!!!* Halting of this can have far reaching rippling effects and be a major dynamic catalyst for pioneering technological changes for this city, our environment, industry, government, this nation and the global world at large. Help mankind from furthering self-made self-destruction.

FEB 23 2007

RIGHT NOW as a New Year priority and gift to global humanity, yourself and **STATE OF ILLINOIS Pollution Control Board** step up to the plate, uphold our well being, and speak out by writing. Let your heads' mind and hearts' mind together move you into action. **LET THE COMMUNITY VOICE RING IN THE NEW**, thank you.

WRITE a sentence or more in support of the Peoria County Board's decision against massive incoming dangers to this area from the hazardous landfill dump taking perhaps 15 mins.. Toxic waste and toxic chemicals are a huge global challenge. Write, and then sign with your address and **MAIL TO:** Illinois Pollution Control Board, Clerk's Office, Case PCB 2006-184, 100 W. Randolph St., Suite 11-500, Chicago, IL 60601 Postmarked by Apr. 6, only letters accepted for their web site

Our View - PDC gambit fails common sense test from the Journal Star on Thurs., Jan. 11, 07

Peoría Disposal Co. is working every angle in a push to expand its hazardous waste landfill near Pottstown.

First is its appeal of the Peoria County Board's decision to deny expansion; that rests with the state Pollution Control Board. Also in play is PDC's legal motion for summary judgment, which asks the pollution board to reject the county decision. PDC's attorney says the process was "fundamentally unfair," a claim that seems specious given the transparency and thoroughness of it all.

That PDC would appeal was all but certain. Its latest strategy, though, is surprising — mind-bending, even. The company is trying to win limited landfill expansion through its state-issued permit. How? PDC says it is the generator of the waste it treats and, as such, argues that Illinois environmental law exempts it from Peoria County's local siting authority.

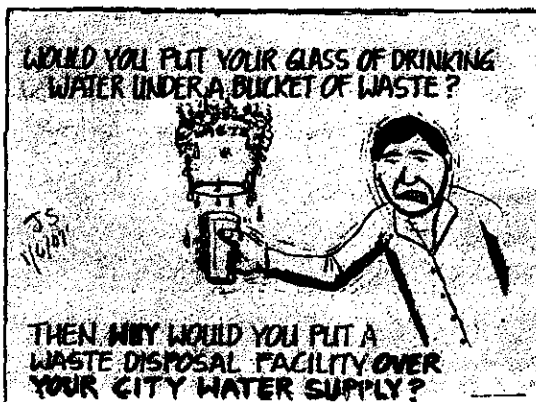
Forgive those who scratch their heads at this assertion. PDC is a *disposal company*. It accepts up to 850 different residues and metal-bearing dusts originating from businesses here and in nearby states. Were it not for these manufacturers, the landfill would be a big, empty hole. Yet the company argues that since it does treat much of the waste it accepts — 140,000 tons annually — it is altering its makeup, thereby "generating" a new waste.

This fails the common sense test. PDC runs a landfill, not a factory. Still, PDC claims to have the law on its side, citing two other companies' state permit experiences, as well as a 1994 case before the Illinois Supreme Court. The court ruling contained language concluding that PDC was a waste generator.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency rightly rejected such reasoning in the early 1990s, before the court case, when PDC sought a smaller vertical expansion through its permit. Hopefully, the IEPA will toss it out again. It's a slippery-slope argument. PDC treats hazardous waste because it's required to by federal law. Following that law shouldn't win it exemptions or change its identity. A landfill is a landfill.

At best, one could say PDC isn't putting all of its eggs in one basket. Or, one could view this maneuver as an end-run, designed to force the county back to the table. Either way it undermines the existing process for such sensitive decisions, which already has a pretty fair chain of appeals set up.

Beyond that, PDC's willingness to squeak through a limited expansion shows the revenue at stake here. It underscores what the County Board sacrificed — namely, a PDC-funded perpetual care fund — by nixing expansion. The county now finds itself in the unenviable position of fighting PDC's ever-multiplying angles.



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Insanity to bury hazardous waste over water supply

A4
SUNDAY
JANUARY 29, 2006
JOURNAL STAR

I have been following the issue of proposed expansion of the Peoria Disposal Company's hazardous waste landfill on the west edge of Peoria, and attended PDC's presentation to the Peoria City Council last November.

This landfill is the worst thing I have seen in my 90 years in this community. I say that without reservation.

It is amazing that, in this era of space technology, we are building a mountain here of a couple million tons of a huge assortment of terribly toxic chemicals in the belief that a plastic liner will forever prevent them from leaking into the aquifer, from which over half of the Peoria area's tap water is pumped. PDC's toxic waste landfill sits right over that precious groundwater supply. Plastic breaks and cracks with age and stress, and chemicals can eat into and through it.

Moreover, it is the only hazardous waste land-

fill in Illinois and the greater part of the Midwest, and one of only a few in the nation. Many of the most toxic chemicals are permitted to be buried here, and 15 states send them here.

The majority of these chemicals are volatile, meaning they literally dissipate into the air we breathe. Yet there is no air pollution testing, and this factor is being ignored by our government.

If mankind keeps handling its waste this way, we are going to go the way of the dinosaurs. Of the billions we spend on space programs, we must spend as much, indeed, even far more on caring for and preserving our space ship Earth. We have to find ways to detoxify and recycle all such waste. It is insanity.

BILL RUTHERFORD SR.
FOREST PARK FOUNDATION
PEORIA HEIGHTS

To Whom This Concerns:

Four months after renown conservationist Bill Rutherford, who died Nov. 21, sent the above letter, the Peoria County Board voted 12 to 6 not to grant a permit to Peoria Disposal Co. to expand its toxic waste landfill here. That vote followed the largest and longest (6 days) public hearing in area history.

PDC is appealing the county's permit denial to the Illinois Pollution Control Board. The IPCB hearing on the case was January 8, and it will accept citizen comment letters though April 6! Let the IPCB know your views. The letters will be posted on the IPCB's web site. Yours will count. The address is:

← { Illinois Pollution Control Board, Clerk's Office, Case 2006-184
100 W. Randolph St., Suite 11-500, Chicago, IL 60601 (Letters only. E-mails not accepted)

Also, write or fax the Journal Star.

The Situation:

PDC's proposed expansion would triple the volume of its toxic waste landfill, adding 2.2 million tons to 40 acres on the top of its hilltop landfill -- already much higher than originally due to years of dumping. It would make that hill another 45 feet higher at least (5 stories), a superdome of toxic waste considerably higher than any other hill in the area, and covering an area greater than Bradley U's campus. Its contents, from 15 states so far, would be encased in manmade sidewalls of dirt lined with plastic membrane and packed down by bulldozers. Hardly a leakproof scenario.

PDC's is the only remaining commercial hazardous waste landfill from Indianapolis to the Rocky Mts. in the nation's upper half. Such waste from a dozen states is regularly brought here. PDC has been operating since 1940, but state toxic waste regulations didn't begin until 1987. And:

****The dump site sits above the shallow sand-gravel aquifer from which most of the Peoria area water supply is drawn. Yet PDC's Illinois EPA permit allows 843 of the nation's most toxic chemicals to be put there -- but requires just quarterly tests for only 20 -- with PDC designating the day for EPA to take test samples.**

****This landfill has vents for gaseous emissions and is immediately upwind of Peoria. But there is no testing for air pollution, though research has revealed it to be a major health issue around such landfills elsewhere.**

The federal "toxic release inventory" for Peoria County is by far the highest in Illinois, 4 times more than Cook County's (Chicago), and 16th in the nation, according to the 2002 USEPA report. It lists the PDC toxic waste landfill as releasing 21 times more than any other area source.

This landfill is a "forever" hazard. We need to close it now with strictly enforced perpetual safeguards.

Tom Edwards, River Rescue, 902 W. Moss Ave, Peoria, IL 61606

Tom

Without this new permit, the landfill will have to be closed!

Tell our state legislators, too.