

PC# 28

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

October 26, 2010

**RECEIVED**  
CLERK'S OFFICE  
To Whom It Concerns

**OCT 28 2010**

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**  
**Pollution Control Board**

Because we did not register a request with the County Board 15 days prior to the Mar 2010 Public Hearings we were not able to express our needs and wishes regarding the Mega Dump that affects our family. Case# PCB 2010-103

We live within a mile of the existing land fill. Our family has owned and lived on this farm since long deceased father bought it in the 1930's, Henry T Barr. Our concerns include: pollution; water & air, blowing refuse ie plastic bags and other light garbage; water seepage in the future, attraction of vermin such as rats within the 2,000 tons of trucked in garbage expected after the expansion. The possible connection between our low copper blood levels and my recent stroke and Jim's heart disease.

Sincerely  
Janet & Jim Barr

Janet A. Barr  
12860 Fairview Dr.  
Dekalb, IL 60115



October 27, 2010

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



Dear Board Members:

I am writing to enter on record my strong opposition to the planned expansion of the landfill in DeKalb County (Case: PCB2010-103).

This huge planned expansion was "railroaded" through the DeKalb County Board "in the dark of night" with very limited input from local residents. Ironically, railroads could ultimately be used to transport 29,209 tons of garbage per day from 17 northeast Illinois counties to the landfill near Cortland.

The entire siting process was strategically designed to lock out the participation and overwhelming opposition of local citizens:

- Only landowners within one-half mile of the landfill were officially notified by mail about Waste Management's request to expand the landfill.
- After the DeKalb County Board approved the initial Host Community Agreement in April 2009, all board members were informed by the DeKalb County Government Administration of essentially a "gag rule" that prevented them from discussing any issues regarding the proposed landfill expansion with their constituents while the request was being considered.
- Only those individuals, who had registered with the County Board at least 15 days prior to the Public Hearings held in March 2010, could speak at those hearings. And, this restriction was not well publicized.

I am strongly opposed to the planned landfill expansion, which would:

- Increase air pollution, especially odors and harmful gases.
- Increase water pollution, including hazardous chemicals in ground water.
- Increase truck traffic pollution, road wear and roadside trash.
- Decrease property values in surrounding neighborhoods.
- Damage our county's public image and overall attractiveness to potential new businesses, residents, NIU students and visitors.

DeKalb County is recognized statewide for its excellent farms, educational institutions, health care facilities and high quality of life. Such a planned landfill expansion would negatively impact all that local citizens have worked for more than a century to attain!

Sincerely yours,

*Robert J. Brown*

Robert J. Brown

1400 South Malta Road, DeKalb, IL 60115 815-758-8888

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

10/26/10

Re: Case number PCB2010-103

*Pct# 30*

**RECEIVED**  
CLERK'S OFFICE

OCT 28 2010

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

Dear Board Members;

My husband and I live on a property that is about ¼ mile to the north of Waste Management's proposed east expansion. As it is now, we live about 1 mile, as the crow flies, from the current landfill. So, we live on a property that has the potential to be one of the most severely impacted as a result of an installation of a huge expanded landfill.

Seventeen years ago we built our dream home on a nearly 2 acre plot where my husband's family originally set down roots over 150 years ago. Back then the farm contained hundreds of acres, but through marriage and deaths, etc., it was split up. We have planned to retire here and have spent the past 17 years beautifying and improving our property.

One of the negatives of our property is that, even though the current landfill is a mile away, we can smell rotting garbage on nearly a daily basis. The landfill is SW of our property and so the prevailing winds for most of the year carry the smell to us. There is also a rotten egg smell sometimes, which I am told is H<sub>2</sub>S, a potentially dangerous gas emitted by landfills.

I understand that Waste Management is supposed to take care of the smell with a certain procedure but if they are doing it, it hasn't helped. I know my neighbors have complained about the smell but nothing has ever been done about it. The school children at Cortland School have even complained about it, but again, not enough has been done about it by Waste Management to have a lasting effect. This, and other concerns make me question the wisdom of allowing Waste Management to install a landfill that is hundreds of acres larger than the current one.

But despite the serious issues listed above, the biggest concern we have has to do with fair treatment of citizens of the county related to notification of the application hearing, the hearing procedures themselves, Waste Management's behavior, and the process the county board used in their decision-making. Please bear with me as I relate the details of what we have experienced.

1. The notification of Waste Management's application hearing: Most people were unaware that the hearing was to take place due to the fact that the notices were put in obscure places in the newspaper and sometimes part of the notification was missing.

2. The hearing procedures:

Registration: I was informed by a friend that I would have to register, according to the stated procedures, by a certain date and time with the county in order to speak at the hearing. This caused me much stress, as I found out last minute and barely made it by the stated deadline. Upon arriving at the hearing the first day, I found out that anyone could speak and that we did not have to register ahead of time. I was also under the impression that only the nearby landowners could speak. It was brought out at the hearing that anyone there could speak. It concerns me that people likely stayed away thinking they could not speak, or maybe missed the stated deadline.

Procedures changed: Some procedures were also changed at the hearing but there seemed to be no way to inform the general public about these changes on such short notice. The hearing officer stated that some evening sessions would be held to accommodate public comment, but it was all so last minute that unless a person knew someone at the hearing, s/he would not be informed about it.

Calling of witnesses: Waste Management had plenty of opportunity to present witnesses that could back up all the claims they made concerning nearly every aspect of their application. For some reason, the DeKalb County Board committee members did not have any independent consultants scheduled to give an independent opinion of aspects related to the 9 criteria the Waste Management was supposed to meet. Clearly, the board members and the general public are not experts in most of the areas related to this application and the technical data that needed to be considered. Citizens that tried to question the data during the hearing were not made to feel at all welcome by the county board. This is one reason that I began to believe that this was a done deal. It is my belief that the hearing procedures themselves were completely unfair to the average citizen, due to the fact that this was Waste Management's application hearing where they presented their case, but the county board committee makes their recommendation to the full board based on what is presented in that hearing. Average citizens don't know what will be presented and therefore cannot be effectively prepared to bring witnesses with technical expertise that can address the 9 criteria. In fact, before the hearing we did not know that there were 9 criteria nor the nature of those criteria.

3. Waste Management's behavior: More than a year ago, Don Moran, attorney for Waste Management, came to our home and initially misrepresented himself as someone who was trying to do some research for the county board. Later after further questioning he identified himself as representing Waste Management. His unethical behavior seems to be the trend with Waste Management.

It came out before the hearing that Waste Management was promising large sums of money to the DeKalb County Park District and several other County entities, if the application was approved. They also promised the Town of Cortland a million dollars and one dollar per household "administrative fee" kickback in exchange for their silence and for not assisting any challengers against Waste Management's proposal.

The mayor of the Town of Cortland and his board members accepted this offer and kept quiet about the coming landfill expansion. The effect of this agreement was that the people of Cortland were purposely not informed about the coming landfill and the agreement Waste Management has with the Town of Cortland. And, put very simply, Cortland Township was never consulted by Waste Management about road usage or impacts that their activities may have on the maintenance, equipment and budget of Cortland Township.

4. The County Board's process: In a brochure that was intended to show how certain goals related to the county jail and courthouse expansion could be paid for, one of the solutions pointed to the landfill, stating that it would bring in substantial revenue toward these goals. However, this was before the public hearing.

After the hearing, via the newspaper, we were told that our county board representatives could not speak with us because they were like a jury in this process. Quite frankly, I was and still am outraged that my elected officials would ever be prevented from receiving my input about anything at the county level, let alone one that has the potential of harming our environment so deeply. They were then free to speak with us once they'd made their decision. This flies in the face of any democratic process I've ever heard of.

In conclusion, we are asking you to look at the timelines, facts and dates in this matter. If you do, we believe that you will come to understand that Waste Management has unfairly manipulated many aspects of the deal they were trying to make with the DeKalb county board. Both entities have tried to run over us and subvert a fair process. We are asking you to disallow Waste Management's application for an east expansion for now and for the future. We would like to see some responsible maintenance of the present site, slower growth of the landfill in general, and would not like to use up our county's landfill space with other counties' garbage.

Sincerely,



Frankie (author) and Bob Benson  
18711 Chase Rd.  
DeKalb, IL 60115

815-766-0667