

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

STOP THE MEGA-DUMP,)	
)	
)	
Petitioner,)	PCB 10-103
)	
v.)	
)	
COUNTY BOARD OF DEKALB COUNTY,)	
ILLINOIS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT)	
OF ILLINOIS, INC.,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

PUBLIC COMMENT

DeKalb Daily Chronicle
"Application for Landfill Expansion to be Filed in Days"
Published November 20, 2009

Filed by Waste Management of Illinois, Inc.

De Kalb Chronicle – Published November 20, 2009

Application for landfill expansion to be filed in days

By ELENA GRIMM egrimm@daily-chronicle.com

SYCAMORE - An application to expand the county landfill should be filed to the county by Nov. 30.

That is the date Waste Management of Illinois Inc. and county officials have marked. Once filed, the application will be available to the public at the DeKalb County Clerk's Office, several municipalities including Cortland and DeKalb, and at area libraries, DeKalb County Administrator Ray Bockman said Friday.

The Pollution Control Facility Committee, an ad-hoc committee of seven county board members and eight support staff, met Friday afternoon to go over the schedule for public hearings and other routine information pertinent to the expansion process.

Public hearings will be held March 1-5, 2010, and will flow into the next week, if needed. Hearings will be held from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. each day, with an evening session scheduled for March 2.

The biggest concern voiced by committee members was choosing a right-sized venue. The Gathertorium of the County Legislative Center has been booked for the hearings.

The county already ran into the problem of not having a large-enough space once, when about 400 people showed up for a public hearing on a wind farm earlier this year in a room built for 250. The hearing was rescheduled and held in a high school gymnasium.

"It overwhelmed us," County Planning Director Paul Miller said.

Renee Cipriano, a former director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency who will be providing legal counsel to the county during the landfill expansion process, recommended finding a larger venue if an unexpected crowd should turn up.

But she doesn't think that will happen.

"There really isn't that core, active group that you're aware of," she said. "It really depends on if you have a municipality you know that is going to have issues, they'll try to pack the room, or a community group or environmental group."

The Gathertorium can seat about 100, with overflow space in the lobby using a PA system.

Bockman said he would look into other options.

"Plan B will be critical," said Lee Addleman, a consultant with Waste Management. "Should 300 people show up, they need to be able to hear."

Leading up to the filing date, Waste Management has notified all interested parties, including about 17 adjacent property owners, Addleman said. Patrick Engineering, the firm overseeing the project, is reviewing engineering aspects of the siting application before it's filed with the county.

After the siting application is filed and public hearings take place, the Pollution Control Facility Committee will make a recommendation to the county board, which has ultimate local authority.

Appeals to the board's decision then can occur.

After local approval, a second application process happens on the state level, where a permit needs to be granted to Waste Management to make the expansion, Bockman said. That process could take two years.

Waste Management wants to expand the DeKalb County Landfill to take in a total of 500,000 tons of solid waste a year, or about 2,000 tons per day. Currently, the landfill receives 300-350 tons of trash a day from the county, and only seven years of capacity remain, officials said.

Comments

meathead38oz wrote on November 21, 2009 8:40 a.m.

"county board are a bunch of sell outs think about the future of this county and stop worrying about the fast buck where does this county go after this landfill if full of other countys and chicagos garbage????? where will have to send ours at that time????? this is just plain ridiculous. no different than prostituting our county out to other counties. lets show some pride in this county for once county board"

Report

knowledgeable one 1 wrote on November 21, 2009 8:44 a.m.

"This is not good for the people of Dekalb County. They recieve 350 tons of trash a day and have 7 years of capacity left. They want to expand to take in 2,000 tons per day. By my math thats roughly 6 times the amount of trash per day. Unless I am missing something, that means they will need 6 times the amount of land they have now and it will be filled in 7 years. How big is this thing going to be? That also means 6 times more trucks on our roads."

Report

Mr Kevin wrote on November 21, 2009 3:30 p.m.

"Here we go again. Is there a need for larger landfills? Yep. Is there another solution? Not an economical one. So why not expand? NIMBY. NIMBY-types always want stuff, but aren't willing to put up with the unpleasant side of having stuff. You can't have your cake and eat it to. Just like no new magical electricity exists so we need additional generation, so to do we need landfill space to handle trash, both the counties and others. Take their money."

Report

Kay Shelton wrote on November 21, 2009 7:36 p.m.

"Hmmm, I wonder what kind of a logo and slogan DeKalb County can get to match Largest Garbage Dump in the Midwest? I hope the County Board charges extra when the landfill starts getting the mob hits from Cook County."

Report

Federalist wrote on November 22, 2009 9:36 a.m.

"I think that if the county decides to support the expansion, it should make sure that the county sees large amounts of money for any trash coming from outside it's limits. This could be a major cash cow for the county... Also, they should require WM to remove the flare and put the landfill gas to use. People should remember that landfills eventually close and usually when they do the community is left with a large amount of open space. That's not a bad thing, IMO..."

Report

Otis The Cockatoo wrote on November 22, 2009 12:34 p.m.

"Thank you City of DeKalb for making sure that area businesses have no recycling requirements! You have done well to assure that you are doing Waste Management's bidding in limiting competition. Your grandchildren will be proud of how you left the planet for them."