



LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA AFL-CIO

LOCAL UNION NO. 362

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

November 16, 2011

Thomas Holbrook
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph
Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601

PC B11-60
PC# 91

ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Holbrook,

Henson Disposal has constructed a C&D Recycling facility at 2148 Tri-Lakes Road in Bloomington, IL. Nearby this facility, people live and work, children attend school and play outside, pets frolic in their yards, individuals wait at bus stops for a ride to their destination, families recreate at State Farm Park and fish and hold parties at Tri-Lakes Fishing Club and Banquet Facility. I was approached by several members of Laborers' Local 362 who live in the area near the plant, along with several members of the community that are in opposition to the C&D recycling plant and the negative impact it will have on their community. Therefore, I am writing to you to voice their concerns over the construction and operation of Henson Disposal's C&D Recycling facility.

Perhaps our greatest concern is the airborne contaminants emitted by this facility. There is no good way to contain or prevent the dust from leaving the C&D recycling plant. In addition to the wind forcing the fine particles in the air, the trucks traveling in and out of the plant will also contribute to the contaminants going airborne. Exposure to these contaminants are neither good for people, pets nor the environment. Breathing these contaminants can lead to respiratory issues and exasperate pre-existing lung conditions. The particles in the dust can also cause skin irritations. Every day the students and faculty of Cedar Ridge Elementary School will breathe these contaminants. Families and friends who plan to enjoy the great outdoors at State Farm Park and Tri-Lakes Fishing Club instead will be exposing themselves to dangerous airborne particulates. The people who reside, work or visit this area will be constantly exposed to these airborne contaminants that can have a harmful effect on their health, even if exposed for only for a short period of time.

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The people are not the only ones that will suffer. The airborne dust and water runoff from the plant can have a harmful effect on the surrounding environment. State Farm Park and Tri-Lakes Fishing Club both have fishing lakes. These dust particles can settle on the lake, change their turbidity and alter the pH levels all of which can have a profound effect on the lakes' ecosystems. The dust can also clog the gills of the fish, suffocating them.

Businesses in the area are also concerned. Tri-Lakes Fishing Club and Banquet Facility relies on the aesthetics of the outdoors for their business. Pollution of their lakes will destroy their fishing club that has been around for 65 years. The noise and dust created by Henson's C&D recycling plant will also have a negative impact on their fishing club and their banquet business. The owner of Bloomington Meats is worried his meat will become contaminated by the airborne particulates entering his shop. The roads in this area are not the best. Business owners and residents are worried the increased truck traffic will further erode the roads which might deter people from visiting businesses and damage residents' vehicles.

The facility itself poses a hazard. This type of facility stores large quantities of wood products, brush, chemicals and other hazardous and flammable material. A fire at this facility would be detrimental to the health and property of those living and working nearby. There is also the question of zoning. The property is zoned for light industrial, yet it is surrounded by small businesses, residential areas and Tri-Lakes. Lastly, there is no direct supervision of operations by Henson Disposal at this facility. So who is monitoring the site, ensuring the safety of the residents in the area and offering assurance that no hazardous waste will be processed there?

We understand that recycling is important, yet it should not be placed above the health and welfare of people. On behalf of members of Laborers' Local 362 and the over 200 community members whose signatures we have submitted to the Illinois Pollution Control Board, I ask that you deny the permit to operate Henson Disposal's new C&D Recycling facility. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Anthony Penn
Business Manager