

29 May 2020

We the people of Effingham County felt it necessary to comment on the current pending case open between the Illinois EPA and Landfill 33, which is case PCB 20-18.

We request that the Illinois Pollution Control Board and all involved parties please review the following comments regarding case PCB 20-18. Please take the following facts into consideration in determination of approval for any expansion Landfill 33 is requesting.

1) Some of Landfill 33's current pits are unlined. We believe that more contaminants are leaking out of the current operation at Landfill 33 than what is currently understood with these unlined pits in mind. We would also like to point out that public bodies of water are in close proximity to the current site. The bodies of water being referenced are Salt Creek & Unnamed Tributary of Salt Creek.

2) The local community residing in near proximity to the current Landfill 33 operation have voiced that although Landfill 33 has been in operation for a long time, only recently, within the past 3 years, have local residents noticed the following physical changes to the local environment:

- Increase in strong odor
- Increase in presence of buzzards (scavenger birds)
- Increase in noise pollution
- Increase in trash on property in proximity to the site
- Increase in dust
- Increase in impact on local wildlife (reference PCB 20-32, fish kill)
- Decrease in property value

We understand that when Landfill 33 originally requested an approval on an elevation increase in the year 2000, they had only requested an increase in elevation, with the highest point being in the northwest section of the site, which was approved by the Effingham County Board in the year 2000 and carried out thereafter. We also understand that Landfill 33 is currently requesting to make the entire current operational site elevated to the same elevation as the northwest section, which is an increase in over 480,000 cubic yards of waste capacity.

We believe that an approval on what Landfill 33 is currently requesting would be a mistake, if taking into consideration the recent physical impacts on the local environment outlined in bullets above and/or the consideration that the current site is operating with unlined pits close to natural bodies of water. An increase at this scale of operational capacity will increase the physical impacts on the local environment significantly. We believe that by approving an additional expansion of Landfill 33's current operational capacity as requested by Landfill 33, our local environment will be impacted more severely than what is currently understood by the Illinois Pollution Control Board, the Effingham County Board, the Illinois EPA, and Landfill 33. This impact will not only be felt by the local residents, but by the residents living downstream of the runoff into Salt Creek. Many residents in the southern zone and downstream of the site utilize wells for potable water. We are requesting a denial of a vertical expansion and requesting an objective/neutral review of the current and surrounding sites of Landfill 33 as it pertains to landfill operations by qualified engineering resources, not affiliated with Effingham County or Landfill 33, to validate that the current site is an acceptable environment for this operation.