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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

December 14, 2003

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837 North 12th Street  
Rochelle, IL 61068

PCB10

Dorothy M. Gunn  
Clerk, Illinois Pollution Control Board  
James R. Thompson Center  
Suite 11-500  
100 West Randolph Street  
Chicago, IL 60601

Re: case #PCB03-218

Case name: Rochelle Waste Disposal LLC vs. City Council of the city of Rochelle, IL

Dear Ms. Gunn,

I am not writing to vilify the owners and operators of Rochelle Waste Disposal as they have provided good service to this city and me over the years. Like any progressive business, Rochelle Waste Disposal seeks to expand its operation and thereby generate larger profits. These profits would undoubtedly benefit our city with higher tax revenues. However, this expected revenue is like a siren's call - hard to ignore and very tempting. I commend our current city council for listening to its constituents and voting to reject the petition. My concerns with the landfill expansion are as follows...

Much has been said about the safety of the proposed expansion. However, no amount of planning will change the fact that this will create an enormous amount of traffic on and around Hwy. 38. My husband travels this route daily on his way to Kishwaukee College. Even minor accidents cause major snarls in the traffic patterns on 38, and the increased number of large trucks added to this mix will only cause a more hazardous drive. In two years our oldest child will be attending Kishwaukee College, and that will be place one more McKinley in harm's way by this increase in traffic, should the expansion be allowed to go forward.

I spoke recently to a friend of mine who is a researcher for the U.S. Geological Service. After explaining the issue we're facing with this landfill expansion, she expressed serious concerns about the groundwater safety problems. As she pointed out to me, aquifers in the Southwestern United States have a different set of challenges than do those in this area. Groundwater in this area is impacted very quickly because of the larger amounts of rain and melting snowfall. Her greatest fear was that the clay liner, which is a virtually impermeable substance, would quickly fill, leading to seepage and contamination of the groundwater and well systems. She also pointed out that we are on an active fault line. There was fault movement as recently as 4 years ago as close as Dixon, Illinois.

And finally, this summer I visited a childhood friend of mine. Her husband, a former BFI executive, and she own a landfill consulting company. I explained to her the debate we've been having here in Rochelle and asked for her thoughts on the subject. She spoke passionately about the safe guards these large landfills have and attempted to poke holes in my "not in my

backyard” attitude. She lives in a town near Houston, Texas - a town about the size of Rochelle. I asked her if she would feel comfortable about having Harris County’s garbage brought to her town, creating a massive landfill. She thought for a moment and answered, “No.” When asked why, she said, “Because you can never be totally sure.”

We need to be sure about our road safety, our water safety, and the safety of our land. Please deny this petition.

Respectfully yours,



Nicole McKinley