

From: "Matt Varble"
To: THERRIAJ@ipcb.state.il.us
Date: 8/25/2008 8:33:00 PM
Subject: RE: 8/18/08 Peoria Journal Star article about opposition to proposed delisting

PC 21

Please docket:

8/18/08 Peoria Journal Star article regarding public opposition to proposed
K061 de-isting:

<http://www.pjstar.com/news/x1892834545/Crowd-shows-opposition-to-PDC-landfill-proposal>

Thank you,

-Matt Varble

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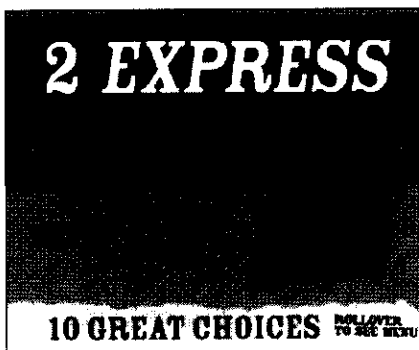
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Crowd shows opposition to PDC landfill proposal

Facility says it can safely treat hazardous dust



By TERRY BIBB
of the Journal Star

Posted Aug 18 2008 @ 10:31 PM

PEORIA — Peoria Disposal Co. says it can safely treat a form of hazardous waste which can be diverted to other landfills around the state.

Many Peorians fear it can not. Furthermore, they think the residents of DeWitt and Pike counties should get the same opportunity to air their fears to the Illinois Pollution Control Board before PDC gets that body's permission to "de-list" K061 electric arc furnace dust.

"This is, I think, the biggest turnout we've

Landfill debate

You can send comments on the landfill debate to the Illinois Pollution Control Board until Sept. 11. The address is: Clerk of the Board, Illinois Pollution Control Board, 100 W. Randolph St., Suite 11-500, Chicago, IL 60601. The entire file can be reviewed at www.ipcb.state.il.us.

had," control board hearing officer Carol Webb said Monday. "Is everyone standing, standing by choice?"

Nearly 100 people crammed into the auditorium at the Peoria Public Library Downtown. A partition was opened, and more chairs were arranged for the overflow crowd. Several people came from DeWitt and Tazewell counties, where PDC operates landfills which could get the byproduct of the steel-making process called K061 if it is de-listed.

"We only had 11 days to prepare," said Matt Varble, president of We're Against Toxic Chemicals (WATCH), a community group opposed to the Clinton landfill. He said they only knew about Monday's pollution control board hearing because they were contacted by like-minded Peoria groups.

Like Varble, those groups raised concerns about the long-term consequences of chemicals over the area's drinking water supply. Several speakers said PDC's testing was inadequate and in-house. They want outside experts to conduct a more thorough review, saying that everything from battery acid to nail polish remover could mix with the "stabilized" K061 EAF dust in a municipal landfill - in endless combinations and conditions.

"It has fallen to ordinary citizens like the Sierra Club and Peoria Families Against Toxic Waste," said Lisa Offutt, saying she'd read hundreds of pages of documents, and noted the repeated concerns that PDC and steel companies could lose jobs. "Who is looking out for the tens of thousands of others who don't work for PDC or Keystone?"

"We, as citizens, depend on you to make the safe call, the fair call, the right call," said Bob Jorgensen of East Peoria. "... Do what your name says: Control pollution."

While the majority of the 27 public speakers were opposed to PDC's request, a substantial minority were PDC customers who came to support the company. That includes Keystone Steel and Wire Co. environmental manager Chad Erdmann, because Keystone provides the bulk of the EAF dust sent to PDC's hazardous waste landfill near Pottstown. Other customers pointed out they themselves are recycling scrap metal.

"The drums of 'bubbling green goo' is not what we're dealing with here," said David Long, environmental manager for Sterling Steel Co. in Sterling. He held up a two-ounce jar of K061 EAF dust to show it's inoffensive - and already going into landfills. "If it's not going in as EAF dust, it's going in as the steel from wrecked cars."

Public comment will be taken by the Illinois Pollution Control Board until Sept. 11. PDC will have until Sept. 25 to respond; and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency must weigh in by Oct. 2.

Terry Bibo can be reached at 686-3189 or tbibo@pjstar.com.

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SNIPER 1 week ago Report Abuse

Wow, these are the same groups that pushed for energy efficient C.F.L. light bulbs that are now polluting our landfills with mercury !!! Go figure .

BC 1 week ago Report Abuse

What other options are there to disposing of this material? Which is better leaving it on it's original site or disposing of it in a properly prepared land fill. To a person the protesters would not welcome life without the products which come from the creation of this waste. It has to go someplace and pushing it off on someone else isn't the answer. Most people will poison their home environment with toxic chemicals on their lawns and inside their homes but fuss about the disposal of less offensive material in the land fill. Our quest to eliminate every crawling or flying creature is killing us faster than anything being disposed of in the land fill.

Joe 7 days ago Report Abuse

OooOooo chemicals are bad! Did you hear that the Illinois River is full of dihydrogen monoxide, or DHMO? Here are some of the dangerous qualities of this deadly chemical.

You can die from inhaling DHMO
Prolonged exposure to the solid form of DHMO causes severe tissue damage
DHMO can be found in acid rain
DHMO contributes to soil erosion
Gaseous DHMO causes severe skin burns
DHMO can be found in pre-cancerous tumors

If you were ready to get your pitchfork and torch, DHMO is WATER. It's a chemical, probably not much more onerous than the stuff they're putting in the landfill. They test the soil all over the place; they have lab technicians working all day doing nothing but soil and water sampling. If there was contamination taking place, they'd be the first to stop it; otherwise they become liable.

cgiselle12 7 days ago Report Abuse

Actually, I have eliminated almost all of the hazardous chemicals in my home. I use Simple Green and vinegar and baking soda for my cleaning. I don't use bug sprays and the like. Even my dog gets 'green' flea killer oil. I don't use carpet cleaning chemicals, etc, etc, etc. I don't color my hair anymore, the list goes on. More and more people are doing the same.

And as for the landfill - one of the biggest problems that we constantly point out is that it is, indeed, in our back yards. Location, location, location. 52,000 people live WITHIN a 3 mile radius. Pleasant Valley Middle School is 1/2 a mile uphill/up the road and up wind from this site. there are apartment buildings just over 250 feet from it. Folks whose expensive homes are overlooking holes on Weaveridge Golf Course and I 74 where it hits Rt 6 can look just beyond the highway and easily see this site as well. The winds blow right over it and then to their homes.

There are other landfills that take Electric Arc Furnace Dust, including one in Roachdale, IN. Also, there are several facilities that recycle EAFD, including one in Calumet, IL. There are other hazardous waste landfills that accept EAFD as well - landfills that ARE NOT on the bleeding edge of anyone's city. I know where they all are, I've done this reasearch.

Further, the entire European Union is banning use of several of the heavy metals found in EAFD (including lead, mercury and chromium) from use in manufacturing to begin with, so that there is no need to landfill them. California and Maine are already proposing similar legislation. US industry needs to follow suit. There are several alternatives to using heavy metals AND to landfilling them. Peoria is quickly becoming not just the dumping ground for the Midwest, but for the entire world's hazardous waste.

Did you know that, according to the American Cancer Society's 2006-2007 studies, Peoria has some of the absolute highest cancer rates in the state? By which I mean top 10, or 5. And 61604, the zip code for the PDC hazardous waste landfill, has the top cancer rates in Peoria? Funny coincidence. My husband saw a urologist recently, luckily not for cancer - but his urologist said he sees more cancer in this area than any other place he's worked. Not kidding.

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Plus, the current request for delisting EAFD by PDC goes against all other legal delistings around the country. PDC wants to take EAFD from anyone it chooses to, without approval by the IEPA or USEPA or IPCB, and treat it and take it wherever it wants to, any municipal landfill it chooses. It's possible this stuff could end up in the city/county landfill too.

And the testing has been, to quote an opponent last night, 'intensive but NOT extensive'. The subject the treated waste to acidic solutions for 24 hours. What happens after a few weeks of the treated chemicals sitting in pools of bleach and brake fluid - stuff found in any muni landfill? No actual, real world, 'in landfill' testing of this process has been completed.

Also, studies show that the process takes the heavy metals to their 'least soluble form' - not INSOLUBLE, just least soluble. This was stated by more than one career chemist/engineer last night.

Why do the citizens of Peoria and Central Illinois have to bear this burden? Why can't PDC do more extensive, real world testing? Before they dump hazardous chemicals on top of our drinking water, chemicals and heavy metals that will then stay there FOREVER.

Capacity at PDC's #1 landfill is supposed to be reached next year. It's time to let this operation close, safely. They can open it elsewhere, in an area that is 1. not over anyone's aquifer (there are plenty of places on top of bedrock in the state and Midwest) and 2. not, LITERALLY, in our back yard.

Cara Rosson, Peoria Families Against Toxic Waste

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