

Peoria River Rescue

ORIGINAL

JUN 15 2006

902 W. Moss Ave.
STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board
(309) 637-1979

June 18, 2006

Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 W. Randolph,
Chicago, IL 60601
Dear People,

RE: Peoria Disposal Co. siting appeal.

PC B06-184 PC#1

The Peoria Disposal Co. siting appeal request before you is not just another case. For one, it was by far the longest (6 days, 53 hours) and largest attended public hearing in history here. It also brought by far the largest number of letters-to-the-editor ever (99% to deny PDC's landfill expansion), and opposing petitions with 6,500 signatures!

PDC's "hazardous waste landfill" is the last such landfill still operating in the upper half of the nation from near Indianapolis to the Rocky Mountains, and one of only 13 remaining commercial (Class B) toxic waste landfills in the nation.

Its location must be one of the worst sites in Illinois for a toxic waste landfill:

- a) It sits atop the sand-gravel aquifer from which most of the Peoria area's water supply is pumped, according to Illinois State Water Survey maps.
- b) It is immediately adjoining and upwind of the City of Peoria -- but there is no testing for air pollution.

The IEPA permit allow PDC to receive 843 of the most toxic chemicals known short of nuclear waste -- but requires only limited testing of groundwater for just 22 of them.

Also, most of these chemicals will volatilize into the air. Yet the IEPA requires no testing for air pollution -- *even though* scientific studies have revealed a greater incidence of birth defects in the vicinity of such landfills in New Jersey and five European countries due to air pollution, and 15% more strokes in adults living near such landfills in New York state. And PDC does have vents for gases constantly arising from its landfill.

Moreover, the highly toxic chemicals the IEPA permit allows are brought to the PDC landfill from up to 15 states.

PDC says it wants to put 2.2 million more tons in its landfill. That is twice what *it says* has been put there since 1987 (when EPA regulation essentially started) -- and would make its hill of toxic wastes nine stories high -- and the highest hill by far in this area. Also, how much was buried there before 1987 is unknown. (Dumping began in 1940.)

Incidentally, *Lloyd's of London will not insure hazardous (toxic) waste landfills.*
WHAT WE ARE ASKING IS:

- 1) If Illinois wants to continue being the destination point to landfill much of the nation's toxic waste -- that it find and get the safest place in the state for such a landfill -- and closely oversee the operation itself (rather than just infrequent checks as now).
- 2) Get a federal program to require and accelerate development of means to (a) detoxify hazardous waste, and (b) recycle it to beneficial uses instead of burying it in the ground *where it remains forever hazardous and a menace.*
- 3) Begin now the permanent closure of the PDC landfill and abatement of all its air and water pollution -- and establish means for its, literally, forever monitoring and upkeep.

For River Rescue, Sincerely, Tom Edwards



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