

November 28, 2007

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

Illinois Pollution Control Board
Attention: Clerk
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601

Re: Case #08-25

PC# 9

Members of the Pollution Control Board,

It is clear to me, and to anyone with common sense, that Peoria Disposal Company's request to reclassify themselves as a "generator" of hazardous wastes is simply an attempt to expand their hazardous waste landfill without local siting approval. PDC's own attorney, Brian Meginnes made no attempt to hide that fact calling it their "backup plan" in a January 6, 2007 article in the Peoria Journal Star.

On January 26, 2007, PDC hosted a required public meeting regarding their Class 3 Permit Modification Request. I attended the meeting and asked Ron Edwards, PDC's VP of Operations, several questions. Mr. Edwards admitted that PDC would continue to transport waste from other states if they received this permit modification request. I asked him if PDC was creating the waste in the other states before trucking it to Peoria. He answered, "No, we're not" and "The waste comes from the outside. That is correct." I asked him if the waste comes from a PDC facility and he answered, "No." I asked him if the waste comes from another company and he answered, "Right."

From the public meeting, it is obvious that PDC does not generate anything. They pickup, transport, and landfill waste that is the by-product of another company's manufacturing process. They provide a service. They have no end product. They have nothing to sell. Once again, PDC's own attorney says so himself. At a May 10, 2007 Peoria County Board meeting, Mr. Meginnes stated "We're in the service business. We don't generate the hazardous waste, just remember that, our customers do."

PDC is playing so many games even they can't keep track. Please don't allow this transparent attempt to circumvent local siting approval. The Peoria County Board said "NO" to PDC and so should you.

Sincerely,



Tessie Bucklar
5045 North Bellevue Place
Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Enclosures:

- Article from January 6, 2007 Peoria Journal Star
- Transcript from January 26, 2007 public meeting (see pages 22 and 23)
- * - A USB memory stick with MP3 file of May 10, 2007 Peoria County Board meeting, MP3 file also located at:
http://www.peoriacounty.org/county/files/show/Agenda_and_Minutes/2007_County_Board/May
(The quote from Mr. Meginnes is at 1 hour, 26 minutes, 40 seconds)

PDC pursues 'backup plan' - Peoria Disposal Co. looks to expand landfill without local approval

ELAINE HOPKINS
557 words
6 January 2007
Peoria Journal Star

PEORIA - Peoria Disposal Co. is seeking a modification of its operating permit that would allow landfill expansion without local approval.

The move comes before Monday's public hearing before an Illinois Pollution Control Board officer regarding expansion of PDC's hazardous waste landfill in Pottstown.

A new filing, which is a modification of its permit, would allow PDC to dispose hazardous waste it takes in and stabilizes at its treatment plant, by placing it in a 40-acre vertical landfill, PDC vice president Ron Edwards said.

The company contends the treatment process makes PDC a generator of waste, therefore they should be exempt from local siting approval, which they were denied by the Peoria County Board last year.

"It's our backup plan," said PDC attorney Brian Meginnes.

Meginnes said they are not embarking on anything that hasn't been done before.

"A lot of manufacturing plants in Illinois have landfills at their facilities for disposal of waste generated at the plant, and (they) don't have to go through siting," Meginnes said.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency would still have to approve the landfill.

"If it's your own waste generated by your own processes, you can put it on land you own," Meginnes said. "This is solely for treated residue from the treatment plant. When it goes through the plant it is treated and rendered nonhazardous."

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club activist Joyce Blumenshine termed PDC's effort "tricks out of a hat."

PDC should not be compared with a power company, which does not take in waste elsewhere, she said.

"They're not a generator," she said of PDC. "This will wake up the people of Peoria to the true nature of PDC and motivate more people to oppose this landfill, which is hazardous waste over our aquifer and will be there forever."

"However they try to spin their operation, it is a threat to the future health of our community."

About 80 percent of the waste that comes into the landfill at Pottstown must go through the treatment plant, Edwards said, including all hazardous waste. The rest is treated elsewhere and sent to the landfill for disposal, he said.

The required public meeting on the permit modification has been scheduled for 9 a.m. on Jan. 26 at PDC Laboratories, Inc., 2231 W. Altorfer Drive.

PDC is also seeking renewal of its operating permit, and a public hearing on that issue has been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Feb. 28 in the auditorium of the Peoria Public Library, 107 NE Monroe.

A draft permit has been issued but does not include special conditions that landfill opponents wanted, Meginnes said.

The U.S. EPA also must approve aspects of that permit, Edwards said.

"There's no change in what we're taking," he said. "It's just part of the application process."

Edwards and Meginnes said PDC still wants siting approval for the expansion. The Peoria County Board rejected the siting last spring, and PDC appealed to the pollution board.

The board hearing, beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday at the Itoo Hall, is expected to last only one day, Meginnes said. PDC will not call witnesses, but Peoria County may call some, he added.