

ORIGINAL

John Therriault
I PCB

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MAY 07 2008
STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

John —

The 1st 5 pages of the
brief petition are the same exactly
as the brief I sent Monday,
with the exhibits written in.

The additions are all
reference exhibits,

Best, Tom Edwards.

P.S. My request is that the
addition of the exhibits be accepted.

T.

ORIGINAL

TO: ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

5/5/08

Brief from Tom Edwards for PCB case 08-42 (See Constitutional authority page 5)

Synopsis:

1-- The Peoria Disposal Co.'s toxic waste landfill at Peoria is in the most hazardous location in the nation relative to the health and well being of people.

2 -- Inspection, oversight, and control need to be vastly improved, and it needs to be safely closed as soon as possible.

3 -- Best alternative: The state needs to find the safest site possible for siting, buy it, and contract out and oversee its operation.

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MAY 07 2008

Status:

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is proposing changes in Pollution Control Board governing the Peoria Disposal Co.'s toxic waste landfill here. Yet it contains major omissions, and changes that will weaken the permit. This is crucial to the Peoria area environment because this "landfill" a) directly abuts the west edge of the City of Peoria, a densely populated area; b) sits right over the aquifer from which most of Peoria and adjacent communities draw their water; and c) takes in toxic waste from (so far) up to 15 other states. And this EPA landfill permit is slated to govern operation and closure of the PDC landfill for the next 30 years

Overview of situation:

The toxic waste landfill of the Peoria Disposal Co. will be a major hazardous environmental factor here, literally, *forever*. It is the elephant in our living room that we have avoided acknowledging -- a *critical mistake* by both PDC and government. To deal with it is going to take longterm *combined* financing and effort by both. All sides need to work together to achieve a total solution -- and an example for others. We can.

We Need Far Better Oversight:

Of the still remaining active commercial toxic waste landfills in the nation (16 in only 13 states), the one at Peoria, owned by Peoria Disposal Co.(PDC), is in by far the most dangerous location in regard to the health and welfare of people and a municipality.

See Exhibits 1, 2, and 3

Industries and communities of up to 15 states (so far) send their hazardous waste to be "buried", literally, on a hill in Peoria that is as close as just 50 feet above the sand aquifer from which most of the Peoria area draws its water supply. It is the only active commercial toxic waste landfill in the top half of the nation from this side of Indianapolis to the Rocky Mountains.

PDC's toxic waste "landfill" at Peoria is the **only still active one in the nation that:**

- 1) Sits right above let alone close to an aquifer from which is pumped the majority of a municipal area's drinking water, and
- 2) Is also located immediately upwind of the air Peorians must breathe.

Only nuclear waste is ranked more of a health hazard than the phalanx of toxic chemicals (843 of them) that are permitted by the federal and state EPAs to be put in PDC's Peoria

landfill, which abuts the west city boundary line. And there is only one site in the nation, in Nevada's desert mountains, being planned for a nuclear waste disposal site.

Water and air pollution are the twin hazards of PDC's toxic waste landfill. It is a pollution hazard, present and potential, to the Peoria area's vital ground water supply. And though research has shown air pollution to be a health hazard in the vicinity of toxic landfills elsewhere (see below), the IEPA has given that possibility virtually no attention at PDC's landfill, saying it isn't a hazard there.

Specific Points and Recommendations:

1 -- Independent inspections and testing direly needed: EPA's permit puts virtually the entire responsibility on PDC for monitoring, testing, and reporting on its *own* landfill and performance rather than vice versa. EPA inspectors say they visit the landfill once, occasionally twice, a month. In effect, the EPA is having, the "permitee" inspect himself. In contrast, the City of Peoria has inspectors on the job checking road and sidewalk projects the entire 8-hour work day.

2 -- Illegal volume change: Original volume capacity limit for waste in the new (post 1987) part of the landfill was originally set at 1.84 million cubic yards, but was upped by PDC and EPA to 2.63 million cubic yards in 2002.

→ [Permit page V-1]. That is a *huge* 43% increase. Public hearings are required for major changes. One was not held, making that expansion illegal.

b. Moreover, when the total capacity of the seven (7) cells of this part of the landfill are added, they total 2.87 million c.y., considerably more than the stated 2.63 million c.y. total permitted limit cited on the same page.

c. Also, PDC has evidently exceeded even the 2.63 total volume limit. The above all needs outside review and investigation. See Exhibit 4

3 -- Reinstate quarterly monitoring for leaks, problems. Testing of water samples from monitoring wells, now done quarterly, is proposed to instead be collected semi-annually, and a number only annually. Leaks could then go on 6 to 12 months without discovery, greatly hindering leak detection and increasing pollution.

Continued quarterly monitoring, at the least, is a vital safeguard. Even more so after landfill closure, as problems worsen over time.

4 -- Much leaking reported from landfill's new section by independent consultants. It must be solved. Or it will be a constant, growing hazard for the Peoria area, as the landfill sits over its drinking water aquifer. **But none of this leaking was found or reported either by PDC or the IEPA.** A county hired engineering consultant found Cell No.1 to be leaking. But a privately hired geo-
→ hydrologist Charles Norris of Denver, CO, found that all seven cells of the newer part (built since 1987) of the landfill, all with liners to prevent leaking, **in fact do leak.** Even the newest ones with "double liners" are leaking, probably straight down through the bottom, he reported. (Therefore likely missing the monitoring wells.)

5 -- Pre-law, unlined section of landfill is ignored and ~~likely~~ leaking. Must be monitored. PDC's landfill has been in operation 79 years, 58 years before the state began in 1987 requiring plastic liners, drains, etc. Because this older but larger section is "pre-law" the EPA does little if any inspection and monitoring of it.

(Love Canal, N.Y., had a pre-regulation landfill. Residents there went to Washington and pounded on Congressional doors to get action to relieve them of the pollution sickening their community. 750 homes were razed. It woke up EPA and the nation. Congress then set up a massive fund to help the host of other places with pre-law dumps. It quickly ran out of money.)

6^a -- A dangerous location for people. As stated above, Peoria is the nation's only metro area with a toxic waste landfill sitting over the city's main water source, and immediately upwind of a densely populated area. Research in New Jersey and five European Union countries of communities near toxic waste landfills showed significantly higher rates of birth defects, premature births, and in New York State a 15% higher rate of strokes. Air pollutants from landfills are the main suspect. Peoria Co. reports a very high infant mortality rate.

See Exhibits 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

6^b -- Peoria County has by far the highest chemical Toxic Release Inventory of any county in Illinois, 4.3 times higher than Cook County's (Chicago), and 16th highest in the nation, according to a 2002 USEPA survey. In the survey PDC's toxic releases were over 21 times higher than the next highest in the county, which was ADM's ethanol plant. (News report to be attached.)

See Exhibit 10

7 --*Air pollution: The denied reality: The IEPA has long been saying there is no air pollution from the PDC landfill. But its closest monitor is 4.5 miles away on a bank building roof. And recent detailed studies (noted above) in New York State, New Jersey, and the European Union show air pollution to be a major health problem for people living in the vicinity of toxic waste landfills. In an unauthorized visit into the PDC landfill last year I found behind a knoll a cluster of pipes 12 to 15 inches in diameter sticking up 7 or more feet out of the ground. A whiff of the fumes they were venting sent me reeling backwards. I reported this to an IEPA inspector of the site. He replied that he and the EPA were unaware of any air pollution or vents for emissions on PDC's site, and asked me where the vents were. I trust he reported this vital knowledge to higher-ups. Other air pollutants from the site are certainly being dispersed by PDC elsewhere. This needs to be thoroughly and publicly investigated by the federal EPA, which has suzerainty over the site.

8 -- Barrel trench: This needs an official public investigation! The metal barrels certainly must all be rusted away and their toxic contents loose. This trench, reported as containing 35,000 cubic yards of waste, was in operation from 1986 to 1990. It must be venting pollutants to the air. But a groundwater monitoring well slated for installation under the barrel trench has yet to be installed 20 years later.

9 -- Test for and prevent escape of very volatile & highly toxic mercury. Only 2% by weight of extremely toxic mercury is allowed in the present and proposed

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permit. But for a 5-ton load of waste, 2% would amount to 200 pounds -- a whale of a lot. But because only grab samples from the top of any incoming load are tested, and loads may be left sitting out for weeks or months after arrival, any mercury would have volatilized into the city's air. Its actual quantities are, therefore, **unaccountable**.

In actual practice,
10 -- Taking & testing groundwater samples: PDC sets the day, time and means for collecting samples, not the EPA. Also, the bulk of the testing of the samples is reportedly given over by the EPA to PDC, which PDC also does in its own Peoria lab.

11 -- Problem reporting: The EPA permit gives PDC 30 days to report any problems it may find, even breakdowns in the landfill. That is an inordinate length of time.

12 -- Why is this landfill for toxic waste located right in a heavily populated area when there are over 100,000 acres of former stripmine land in the 4-county Peoria area, and much more elsewhere? The IEPA says the legislature has given it no authority to take into account "location," only operation rules, and that location is up to the land owner and local officials.

Exhibit 11
13 -- The public hearing held by the county board two years ago on PDC's landfill was the longest (6 days and evenings) and most attended in county history. The county board voted 12 to 6 not to issue a new operating permit.

Previously a Circuit Court ruling in Chicago held that any increase in original landfill capacity, up, down, or sideways, is expansion.

* LEGAL BASIS FOR CASE PCB 08-42, — see next page, 5
 PREFACE TO BRIEF FROM TOM EDWARDS,

Tom Edwards
Petitioner
902 W. More Ave.
Peoria, IL 61606

Legal brief for PCB 08-42, Tom Edwards *page 5*
brief.

CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
ARTICLE XI
ENVIRONMENT

Section 1. Public Policy - Legislative Responsibility.

The public policy of the State and the duty of each person is to provide and maintain a healthful environment for the benefit of this and future generations. The General Assembly shall provide by law for the implementation and enforcement of this public policy.

Section 2. Rights of Individuals.

Each person has the right to a healthful environment. Each person may enforce this right against any party, governmental or private, through appropriate legal proceedings subject to reasonable limitation and regulation as the General Assembly may provide by law.

PREAMBLE TO THE ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

2. (a) The General Assembly finds:

(i) **that environmental damage seriously endangers the public health and welfare, as more specifically described in later sections of this Act;**

(vi) **that despite the existing laws and regulations concerning environmental damage there exists continuing destruction and damage to the environment and harm to the public health, safety and welfare of the people of this State, and that among the most significant sources of this destruction, damage, and harm are the improper and unsafe transportation, treatment, storage, disposal, and dumping of hazardous wastes;**

(b) **It is the purpose of this Act, as more specifically described in later sections, to establish a unified, state-wide program supplemented by private remedies, to restore, protect and enhance the quality of the environment, and to assure that adverse effects upon the environment are fully considered and borne by those who cause them.**

c) **The terms and provisions of this Act shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes of this Act [720 ILCS 5/1-1 et seq.].**

from Tom Edwards
Petitioner
902 W. Moss Ave
Peoria, IL 61606

LIST OF REFERENCE EXHIBITS FOR PETITIONER'S BRIEF FOR PCB 08-42

- 1 -- U.S.Army Corps of Engineers (Data on nation's hazardous waste landfills)
- 2 -- Nation's Most Dangerous Toxic Waste Landfill Location
- 3 -- Letter to Illinois EPA director Doug Scott
- 4 -- Section V-1 of Revised Landfill Permit (erroneous volumes)
- 5 -- Hazardous Waste Landfills Linked to Birth Defects in 5 European Countries
- 6 -- Down Syndrome Abstract - Re: Hazardous Waste Landfills
- 7 -- Hazardous Waste Sites and Stroke in New York State
- 8 -- Birth Complications Linked to New Jersey Hazardous Waste Landfills
- 9 -- Hazards of the PDC Hazardous Waste Landfill
- 10-- Don't Allow Hazardous Landfill to Expand (Re: highest Toxic Release Inventory)
- 11-- Insanity to Bury Hazardous Waste Over Water Supply (Rutherford letter)

Data from
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Feb., 2006

Exhibit 1

Comparison to other Commercial Haz Waste Landfills

Owner	City	ST	Population w/in 3 mile radius (ECHO)	Distance to closest large (recognizable) city/town (Google Earth)	Local Host Fee	State Taxes/Fees	Perpetual Care Fund
Chemical Waste Management - FACILITY CLOSED	Emelle	AL	NA	70 mi SW of Tuscaloosa	\$2.40/ton to County where site located; and Sumter County levies addl \$5/ton	Based on toxicity of waste \$41.60/ton - D, F, K codes requiring stabilization and PCB \$66.60/ton - U Codes \$103.60/ton - P Codes \$11.60/ton - K061 (electric arc dust) \$1.00/ton on all waste received for disposal	
Clean Harbors	Westmorland	CA	139	127 mi E of San Diego	n/a		
Clean Harbors	Buttonwillow	CA	248	27 mi W of Bakersfield	n/a	\$229.62/ton - Extremely haz. waste and restricted haz. waste	
Chemical Waste Management	Kettleman City	CA	16	54 mi S of Fresno	n/a	\$46.38/ton - RCRA haz. Waste	
Clean Harbors	Deer Trail	CO	50	58 mi E of Denver	\$120,000 annually + 2% gross tipping fees (state statute)	\$600 annual operating fee	
US Ecology/American Ecology	Grand View	ID	5	53 mi S of Boise	no	\$30.00/ton - RCRA defined waste \$20.00/ton - same site 0-2,500 tons \$10.00/ton - same site 2,500 - 12,500 \$5.00/ton - same site 12,500 - 25,000 \$2.50/ton - same site 25,000+ tons	
Peoria Disposal Company	Pottstown Booria	IL	53,190	partially located w/in City of Peoria	\$1.00/ton to Peoria County (if expansion permitted)	\$18.18/cubic yard - RCRA defined waste \$6.08/cubic yard - treated waste	
Heritage Environmental	Roachdale	IN	758	39 mi W of Indianapolis	25% of amount collected from state's Haz. Waste Disposal Tax	\$11.50/ton	
Chemical Waste Management	Sulphur	LA	1,955	12 W of Lake Charles	no	\$30/ton of haz waste generated & disposed of at the same site \$40/ton of haz waste disposed of in LA at a site other than generated \$100/ton of extremely haz waste disposed of in LA	
Wayne Disposal, Inc. - FACILITY CLOSED	Belleville	MI	NA	21 mi SW of Dearborn	no	\$10.00/ton - RCRA defined waste excludes K061, treated waste, incineration ash	

Data from
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Feb, 2006

Comparison to other Commercial Haz Waste Landfills

Owner	City	ST	Population w/in 3 mile radius (ECHO)	Distance to closest large (recognizable) city/town (Google Earth)	Local Host Fee	State Taxes/Fees	Perpetual Care Fund
US Ecology/American Ecology	Beatty	NV	39	117 mi NW of Las Vegas	\$.80/ton to Nye County	\$18.50/ton - RCRA defined waste \$3.00 - PCBs and treated waste	\$2.80/ton + \$.07/cubic foot for perpetual care and maintenance
Chemical Waste Management	Model City	NY	4,227	8.5 mi NE of Niagara Falls	no	Regulatory Program fees and \$27.00/ton	agreement between NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation and CWM Chemical Services
Envirosafe of Ohio	Oregon	OH	43,581	4.3 mi SW of Toledo SE	no	\$9.00/ton - RCRA define waste \$2.00/ton - treated waste	\$11 million deposited by Envirosafe in 1991
Clean Harbors Lone Mountain Facility	Waynoka	OK	67	137 mi NW of Oklahoma City	10% of amount collected from State's Facility Monitoring Fees to an organization comprising of several counties	\$9.00/ton - RCRA define waste \$2.00/ton - treated waste	
Chemical Waste Management	Arlington	OR	48	116 mi S of Yakima, WA	\$1.18/ton to Gilliam County	\$20.00/ton - RCRA defined waste and PCBs \$7.50/ton - K061 \$20.00/ton - same site 0-2,500 tons \$10.00/ton - same site 2,500 - 12,500 \$5.00/ton - same site 12,500 - 25,000 \$2.50/ton - same site 25,000+ tons	
US Ecology/American Ecology	Robstown	TX	516	22 mi NW of Corpus Christi, TX	no		
Waste Control Specialists	Andrews	TX	36	45 mi NW of Midland/ 35 mi N of Odessa	no	\$5,000/surface acre annual facility fee (Min. \$2,500 and max. \$25,000)	
Envirocare of Utah - FACILITY CLOSED	Clive	UT	NA	74 mi W of Salt Lake City	10% of the fees received to county facility located in (Utah Code)	\$28.00/ton - RCRA defined waste \$14.00/ton - treated waste \$4.75/ton - PCBs	Envirocare deposits \$400,000/year since 2001; Fund available after 100 years
Clean Harbors Lone & Grassy Mountain	Grantsville	UT	3	36 mi SW of Salt Lake City			

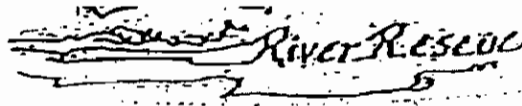


Exhibit 3

Doug Scott
Director, IEPA (copy to Peoria County Bd.)

April 10, 2007

Dear Director Scott,

The attached paper, "Nation's Most Dangerous Toxic Waste Landfill?" aptly describes the location of Peoria Disposal Co.'s toxic waste landfill adjoining Peoria's west edge.

As the paper tells, only one of the nation's 15 other active hazardous waste landfills even approximates Peoria's close-by density of population. And Peoria has a dense population right up to and against the landfill's fenced enclosure!

Even worse, the PDC landfill, as the map shows, is a) the only one in the nation that sits atop the aquifer from which a city and surrounding towns pump most of their water, and b) is the only one directly against and upwind of a city, and the toxic fumes we now realize constantly escape from such landfills into the air we breathe, to our detriment.

And the toxic wastes from as many as 15 states so far are being brought to Peoria to be dumped, actually, on a hilltop packed with hazardous, toxic materials.

I don't believe that -- given that knowledge -- a sovereign state and a major county of that state will not immediately take direct action to correct and remove that undeniable danger to the health and well being of its citizenry.

However, the Greater Peoria area is fortunate in that it is in a location in which remedial action can quickly be taken. It has over 100,000 acres of former stripmines within 10 to 40 miles of the city and along major highways. Most are now pasture land.

Certainly there are far superior -- and hugely safer -- sites for such a landfill, even in this area as well as others, that can be found by the state and/or landfill operator. And the PDC landfill at Peoria can be *forever* closed as safely and securely as possible.

The Peoria County Board took strong, wise action when it voted last May (as is its legal prerogative) not to issue a permit for expansion of the PDC landfill beyond its original permitted area and volume.

PDC is trying to overturn that decision via an appeal to the Illinois Pollution Control Board. But it is obvious that was a vital and just decision that needs to be upheld.

If a new landfill is deemed necessary, then there needs to be a combined effort to immediately find and secure the best, most suitable site possible.

Sincerely, Tom L. Edwards, *River Rescue*

cc: "Nation's Most Dangerous ..."
"Solutions to Hazardous. . . Landfill"

902 W. Moss Ave.
Peoria, IL 61606

Exhibit 4

Revised: October 2007

ILD000805812

Page V-1

Section V LANDFILLS

this was increased from 1.84 in 2002, without public hearing. (i.e., 1.84 million c.y.)

A. SUMMARY

Peoria Disposal Company operates a ninety (90) acre facility, seventy-four (74) of which are approved for disposal units. The total waste capacity is approximately 2,638,580 cubic yards. Industries served by the site include earthmoving and agricultural equipment manufacturers, chemical and steel companies, and breweries. Some wastes are to be treated at the Stabilization Unit at the facility prior to disposal in a landfill cell. The final landfill unit is scheduled to close in the year 2009.

This section presents permit conditions for the landfill according to the regulatory requirements of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 724 Subparts N (Landfills) and G (Closure).

B. WASTE IDENTIFICATION

1. The landfill disposal units are located as shown on the site topographic map contained in Appendix B-2 of the approved permit application.
2. The Permittee may dispose the following wastes in landfill cells, subject to the terms of this permit:

Landfill Cell Designation	Approximate Total Capacity (c.y.)	Surface Area Dimensions of Landfill Cell (Acres)	Description of Hazardous Waste
Barrel Trench Area	35,000	14	See Attachment C for Waste List and Hazardous Waste Nos.
Section A	6,500	8	and
Section B	190,000	10	Non-hazardous
Trench C-1	425,929	7.3	wastes identified
Trench C-2	453,846	6.4	in Condition X.H.2
Trench C-3	775,939	7.3	
Trench C-4	982,865	11.0	
	<u>2,810,079</u>		

big one from here ←

3. The Permittee is prohibited from disposing any waste in the permitted units not included in Condition B. 2. of this Section.

231,499 c.y. more than total waste capacity, given above (2,638,580). Figures don't give!

~~See~~ Exhibit 5

Best Practice of Medicine - Patient Guide

Press Ctrl-P (PC) or ⌘-P (Mac) to print this page

HEALTHNews

1/25/02

Hazardous waste landfills linked to birth defects

NEW YORK, Jan 25, 2002 (*Praxis Press*) Babies are more likely to have chromosomal abnormalities, such as Down's syndrome, if their mothers live within a few miles of a hazardous waste landfill, according to the results of a study published in the journal *Lancet*.

Previous research suggests that babies of mothers living within about two miles of a hazardous waste landfill are more likely to have non-chromosomal abnormalities, such as neural tube defects and cleft palate.

A multinational team of researchers included in the study more than 2,000 babies whose mothers lived various distances from hazardous waste landfills in the United Kingdom, Denmark, France, Belgium, and Italy. The researchers recorded how far the babies' mothers lived from the landfills as a possible measure of the mother's exposure to chemicals from the landfill. At the time of birth (or early termination of a pregnancy), 9% of the babies in the study had chromosomal abnormalities.

Compared with babies whose mothers lived about two to four miles from the landfill, babies whose mothers lived about 0 to 2 miles from the landfill were 41% more likely to have chromosomal abnormalities. This pattern was present even after the researchers took into account other factors that might influence the occurrence of these abnormalities, such as a mother's age and socioeconomic status.

The study's findings suggest that babies are more likely to have chromosomal abnormalities if their mothers live within a few miles of a hazardous waste landfill. The researchers emphasize that additional studies will be needed to determine if chemicals from the landfills are actually responsible for the abnormalities.

References:

Vrijheid M, Dolk H, Armstrong B, et al.: Chromosomal congenital anomalies and residence near hazardous waste landfills. *Lancet*. Jan 26 2002; 359:320-22.
[http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol/iss/full/lan.359.9303.original_research.19269.1]

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Exhibit 6

Down Syndrome Abstract of the Month: Apr 2002

Chromosomal congenital anomalies and residence near hazardous waste landfill sites

Vrijheid M, Dolk H, Armstrong B, Abramsky L, Bianchi F,
Fazarinc I, Garne E, Ide R, Nelen V, Robert E, Scott JE, Stone
D, Tenconi R.

Lancet 2002 Jan 26;359(9303):320-2

EUROCAT Central Registry, Environmental Epidemiology Unit, Dept. of Public
Health and Policy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London,
UK.

Abstract:

study Previous findings of the EUROHAZCON study showed a 33% increase in risk of non-chromosomal anomalies near hazardous waste landfill sites. Here, we studied 245 cases of chromosomal anomalies and 2412 controls who lived near 23 such sites in Europe. After adjustment for confounding by maternal age and socioeconomic status, we noted a higher risk of chromosomal anomalies in people who lived close to sites (0-3 km) than in those who lived further away (3-7 km).
ad → Our results suggest an increase in risk of chromosomal anomalies similar to that
ad found for non-chromosomal anomalies.

My comments:

↓ Eurohazcon is a collaborative study among a number of congenital abnormality registries in Europe. Sixteen public health institutes were involved in the initial 1998 study (you can read it here). In this study, information about births of infants with chromosomal anomalies were obtained from England, Denmark, Belgium, France and Italy. 23 landfill sites were selected for their containing hazardous waste (as defined in a 1991 Eurocat document); a proximal zone was defined as being within 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) of the site, and compared with a distant zone of 3 to 7 kilometers away from the landfill. 245 cases of infants with chromosomal anomalies were identified, and compared with over 2000 control babies.

↘ For all chromosomal anomalies, the odds of being near a site were 40% more likely than being distant from a site. For Down syndrome, the odds were 36% higher for living near the site.

Environmental Health: A Global Access Science Source

Exhibit 7



BioMed Central

Research

Open Access

Hazardous waste sites and stroke in New York State

Ivan Shcherbatykh^{1,4}, Xiaoyu Huang², Lawrence Lessner^{2,3} and David O Carpenter*^{1,3}

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Email: Ivan Shcherbatykh - shcheriy@mcmaster.ca; Xiaoyu Huang - xiaoyu.h@gmail.com; Lawrence Lessner - LLessner@uamail.albany.edu; David O Carpenter* - carpent@uamail.albany.edu

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Abstract

Background :- Environmental exposure to persistent organic pollutants (POPs) may lead to elevation of serum lipids, increasing risk of atherosclerosis with thromboembolism, a recognized cause of stroke. We tested the hypothesis that exposure to contaminants from residence near hazardous waste sites in New York State influences the occurrence of stroke.

Methods :- The rates of stroke hospital discharges were compared among residents of zip codes containing hazardous waste sites with POPs, other pollutants or without any waste sites using information for 1993–2000 from the New York Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS) database, containing the records of all discharge diagnoses for patients admitted to state-regulated hospitals.

Results :- After adjustment for age and race, the hospitalization rate for stroke in zip codes with POPs-contaminated sites was 15% higher than in zip codes without any documented hazardous waste sites (RR 1.15, 95% CI, 1.05, 1.26). For ischemic stroke only, the RR was 1.17 (95% CI 1.04, 1.31). Residents of zip codes containing other waste sites showed a RR of 1.13 (95% CI, 1.02, 1.24) as compared to zip codes without an identified waste site.

Conclusion :- These results suggest that living near a source of POPs contamination constitutes a risk of exposure and an increased risk of acquiring cerebrovascular disease. However further research with better control of individual risk factors and direct measurement of exposure is necessary for providing additional support for this hypothesis.

Background

Cerebrovascular disease is a major public health problem [1]. In addition to well-documented modifiable risk factors of stroke, there is evidence for a link between a broad category of environmental factors and stroke, such as air pollution [2], environmental tobacco smoke [3], metals

[4], pesticides [5], and other anthropogenic factors, including persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

POPs are chlorinated organic compounds [polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins and chlorinated pesticides] that are resistant to degradation and able to bio-

Exhibit 8

America's Newspapers: Document Display

Page 1 of 2

NewsBank InfoWeb

America's Newspapers

Estimated printed pages: 1

Washington Post

September 15, 1997

Edition: FINAL

Section: A SECTION

Page: A2

Column: SCIENCE NOTEBOOK

BIOLOGY: BIRTH COMPLICATIONS LINKED TO LANDFILL

Author: Joby Warrick

Article Text:

A study of pregnant women and infants near a New Jersey landfill offers new evidence of the possible health risks of living near hazardous chemical waste dumps.

Two scientists analyzed 25 years of birth records in Pitman, N.J., and found that complications increased with proximity to a waste dump on the outskirts of town. Mothers who lived closest to the Lipari landfill were twice as likely to deliver prematurely, compared with women living more than a half-mile away, and their babies weighed an average four ounces less at birth, the researchers report in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives.

"The magnitude of this effect is about as bad as the birth weight reduction that is associated with cigarette smoking during pregnancy," said lead investigator Michael Berry of the New Jersey Department of Health.

The scientists ruled out other possible explanations, such as economic or cultural differences. The mothers living nearest the toxic waste dump were generally wealthier and better educated than those who lived farther away.

All the mothers in the survey drank from the same municipal water supply. Berry suspects that the pregnancy problems resulted from breathing fumes from industrial compounds such as benzene and methylene chloride, which were dumped in great quantity at the landfill during the 1970s.

Both are allowed in
the POC landfill

7,000 PETITION
6,200 signatures,
400 groundwater
values counts.

EXHIBIT 7
River Rescue

January, 2004
" " 2005

Front side
of petition

Hazards of the PDC Hazardous Waste Landfill

Peoria Disposal Co. is seeking a permit from the county board to *greatly* expand its toxic waste landfill on the city's west edge (bounded by Rt. 8, Forrest Hill, Molléck, and Reservoir Rds.) and *operate it for at least 15 more years*. It is the only one left in the Greater Midwest, one of only 14 left in the nation, and has received highly toxic waste from 15 states. It is the most important issue facing the city-county -- and its future. 95% of the direct impact would be to the city. But the city's health is also the county's.

*There are 843 toxic chemicals -- many the most toxic known to man short of nuclear waste -- that the Illinois EPA permits PDC to bury in this 74-acre landfill. The EPA requires testing groundwater for just 20 of them -- and has PDC itself do most testing.

*But there is no EPA testing for air pollution from the landfill, though chemicals do volatilize through soil into our air, indeed, PDC has stack pipes in its landfill to vent gases.

*A recent joint 5-country study in Europe found that babies born of mothers living within 2 miles of hazardous waste landfills had 40% more birth defects and 33% more of other abnormalities [*The Lancet* 1/26/02: Countries were Britain, Denmark, France, Belgium, Italy]. A New Jersey study revealed twice as many premature births, ascribed to airborne fumes. In 2005 a New York state study revealed 15% more strokes in adults near such landfills.

*Peoria has a dense population (over ^{54,000} 25,000) living downwind from and within a ^{3-mile} 2-mile radius of the PDC landfill (from Farmington Rd., University Ave., and Charter Oak and Big Hollow Rds). This area includes 265 residential streets lined with single and multi-family homes and apartments -- plus Bradley University. BUT its effect goes far beyond.

*Groundwater contamination is a longterm concern. It travels for miles. This landfill adjoins the aquifer from which much (60%) of the city water supply is drawn. Also, it is close to Kickapoo Creek and Illinois River. Chemical toxins can last for centuries, "forever," experts warn. But the plastic and clay landfill liners are shortlived. And monitoring methods "are not" fail-safe. "Every landfill leaks," states Robert Kennedy Jr.

*PDC's current EPA permit allows 2.6 million cubic yards of waste and expires in 2006. According to published reports, it wants to add more states and at least six (6) million more cubic yards (2 million tons) over the next 15 years. That would fill 158 of one of the 30-story Peoria Twin Tower buildings. Do we want a mountain of highly toxic waste from *throughout* the Midwest and beyond in the heart of the county and on the city's doorstep?

DEFINITION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE in state law: Waste which "may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or... serious, irreversible, or incapacitating illness, or pose a substantial... hazard to human health or the environment..."

WHAT WE WANT:

- **Reject expansion of the landfill. (Peoria County Board has full authority to do this.)
- **Begin now the permanent closure of this landfill while we are alert to the problems.
- **Become a community voice urging the state and nation 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 hazardous and a menace.

Exhibit 10

Peoria Journal Star 2/12/08

Don't allow hazardous landfill to expand in Peoria County

Thank you to the Journal Star for reporting that Peoria County releases the greatest amount of toxic chemical pollutants in Illinois, and is in the top 10 percent of the nation's worst counties, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2002 "Toxic Chemical Release Inventory."

Specifically, Peoria County is ranked 16th in the nation for toxic chemical releases, and has 4.3 times more than Cook County, which includes Chicago.

The story concentrated on Archer Daniels Midland. Its pollution, though serious, was under one million pounds of toxic chemicals released into the environment, compared to 21 million from Peoria Disposal Company (PDC). Those releases include cancer-causing compounds, The EPA says PDC's toxic deposits are considerably greater than any other state company.

Though ADM discharges via a smokestack and PDC is mainly a landfill, volatile chemicals evaporate up through soil into the air and seep out into water supplies. PDC's landfill adjoins the residential west side of Peoria. It also abuts the aquifer from which much of the city's water supply comes and is close to Kickapoo Creek, which drains into the Illinois River. As every swimming pool develops leaks, so does every landfill.

PDC's state permit authorizes it to deposit in its landfill over 1,000 of the most toxic chemicals known, and it receives them from 12 to 14 states. It wants to extend its soon-to-expire state permit to triple the landfill's volume and operate 30 more years. This is not the kind of publicity the city wants. To heal the problem would be grand publicity. And we certainly can.

TOM EDWARDS
PEORIA

843

When I called the Illinois EPA about this, it was not even aware that the federal EPA even had a Toxic Release Inventory.

The then IEPA director asked me where to get it. Tom Edwards

Exhibit 11

A4.

SUNDAY
JANUARY 29, 2006
JOURNAL STAR

Insanity to bury hazardous waste over water supply

I have been following the issue of proposed expansion of the Peoria Disposal Company's hazardous waste landfill on the west edge of Peoria, and attended PDC's presentation to the Peoria City Council last November.

This landfill is the worst thing I have seen in my 90 years in this community. I say that without reservation.

It is amazing that, in this era of space technology, we are building a mountain here of a couple million tons of a huge assortment of terribly toxic chemicals in the belief that a plastic liner will forever prevent them from leaking into the aquifer, from which over half of the Peoria area's tap water is pumped. PDC's toxic waste landfill sits right over that precious groundwater supply. Plastic breaks and cracks with age and stress, and chemicals can eat into and through it.

Moreover, it is the only hazardous waste land-

fill in Illinois and the greater part of the Midwest, and one of only a few in the nation. Many of the most toxic chemicals are permitted to be buried here, and 15 states send them here.

The majority of these chemicals are volatile, meaning they literally dissipate into the air we breathe. Yet there is no air pollution testing, and this factor is being ignored by our government.

If mankind keeps handling its waste this way, we are going to go the way of the dinosaurs. Of the billions we spend on space programs, we must spend as much, indeed, even far more, on caring for and preserving our space ship Earth. We have to find ways to detoxify and recycle all such waste. It is insanity.

BILL RUTHERFORD SR.
FOREST PARK FOUNDATION
PEORIA HEIGHTS