

December 23, 2010

Illinois Pollution Control Board, Clerk's Office,
James R. Thompson Center, Suite 11-500,
100 West Randolph St.,
Chicago, IL 60601

Re: Landfill Siting Approval Appeal
Stop the Mega Dump vs DeKalb County Board

PCB10-103
PC# 47

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DEC 27 2010
STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

I strongly object to the DeKalb County Board (DKCB) granting Siting Approval to Waste Management (WM) for a sevenfold expansion of the landfill in Courtland Twp., and to the potential issuance of a permit by the IEPA. I attended the public hearing on November 22nd in DeKalb and have followed the progression of this proposal over the past year or so in local papers and in discussions with neighbors and local representatives. I tried finding the transcripts of the hearing on the IPCB website but was unable to do so, so I am relying on my notes and memory regarding some of the following comments.

I believe that, in granting Siting Approval, the DKCB did not act reasonably to protect the best interests of county residents, nor did they base their decision upon available evidence of the risks or consequences involved. These beliefs and objections are based upon the following:

1. Siting approval by the DKCB was based upon financial rather than technical considerations. DKCB wanted the revenue from tipping fees to fund other projects, in particular, a new county jail (which county residents have repeatedly rejected via referendum).
2. DKCB did not pursue other options when WM presented their sevenfold expansion plan as an "all or nothing" proposal, ie either agree to the expansion or WM would close the landfill at the end of the current permit period.
3. WM acted improperly (if not illegally) by "buying off" the Village of Courtland with a \$1,000,000 "stipend" in exchange for an agreement not to object to the proposed expansion nor to assist Cortland residents in objecting.
4. DKCB limited public opposition to the expansion by
 - o misinforming the public as to who could speak at the public meetings,
 - o not providing access to copies of WM's application in a reasonable or timely manner,
 - o and by blocking county residents' access to elected officials by issuing a "gag order" to county board members regarding the proposed landfill expansion.
5. DKCB retained a former State employee (IEPA, I believe) for legal counsel regarding the landfill expansion. The timing of her hiring, after the expansion was first proposed by

WM, and given her contacts within the IEPA, brings into question DKCB's motives and supposed impartial evaluation of the expansion.

6. The proposed sevenfold landfill expansion is not in the county residents' or neighboring communities' best interests for the following reasons:

- o There are real concerns and significant risks related to groundwater contamination, further air quality degradation, and hazardous air pollution.
- o Heavy truck traffic on I-88 and local county roads will increase, potentially sevenfold. The resulting traffic congestion may reduce safety, possibly requiring changes to existing road and/or additional traffic lights. Roads will deteriorate more rapidly, resulting in increased maintenance costs.
- o Increased trash escaping from the expanded landfill will collect along I-88 and local county roads and on neighboring property, resulting in increased removal costs and a degraded environment.
- o Local property values will be reduced.

DeKalb County taxpayers will bear the cost of dealing with the above inevitable results as well as be exposed to potential costs should environmental damage occur. A good example would be the cost to relocate/rebuild the brand new Courtland elementary school adjacent to the landfill site, should air pollution result in its closing.

7. Finally, notwithstanding all the above concerns, a 40 year commitment to a sevenfold expansion of the landfill is the wrong direction for the county to take to solve our own future and ongoing waste disposal problems. Furthermore, DeKalb County does not need to be the go-to disposal site for 17 other Northern Illinois counties. Endless expansions do nothing to provide incentives to further reduce the volume of waste going to landfills. Nothing is included in WM's application to increase recycling, or even to capture and use the methane produced at the landfill. DKCB should have seriously investigated other alternatives to WM's proposed sevenfold expansion. As a minimum, a smaller expansion for DeKalb County refuse only, should have been counter-proposed, and if not accepted by WM, proposals from other waste disposal companies should have been solicited. This would buy time to evaluate other means of waste disposal, such as waste-to-energy processes already in use elsewhere, or other technologies that may become viable in the near future. WM has no incentive to do this for us.

I urge the IPCB to give due consideration to all of the above issues. I firmly believe that a fair evaluation of these concerns, many or all of which have been voiced by countless other county residents as well as members of the Stop the Mega-Dump organization to DKCB many times during the entire process, will convince the IPCB to rule in favor of the Appeal.

Very truly yours,



John Goodacre
600 Bayfield Drive
DeKalb, IL 60115

ps

Before mailing this letter, I spent approximately one hour talking to neighbors on this subject. Rather than mail individual copies of my letter with their signatures, those who agree with the stated concerns have signed below, which turned out to be 100% of those contacted.

Suzanne Guehl 617 Bayfield - DeKalb -

Pat Jo 631 Bayfield - DeKalb

Debra DeJoy 631 Bayfield Dr. - DeKalb

Janet Irving 642 Bayfield DeKalb

Kim Lauer 1145 Fox Hollow DeKalb -

Jim Lauer 1145 Fox hollow DeKalb.

[Signature] 1175 Fox Hollow DeKalb

Bryant C. Irving 642 Bayfield Dr. DeKalb

Carl Parrini 605 Bayfield Dr.

Sandra Parrini 605 Bayfield Dr.

Kurt & Lewin 604 Hanna Ct. DeKalb, IL

Tamara S. Shriner 626 Hanna Ct., DeKalb

Ron Hemmelgarn 626 Hanna Ct., DeKalb, IL

Marilyn Johannesen 1120 McConnell, DeKalb, IL

Richard L. Johannesen 1120 McConnell Ave., DeKalb, IL

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to whom ~~it~~ may concern,

a brief note - (Thank you,
in advance, for your time.)

I oppose the 'expansion' of
the 'dump' - (dekalb count
one of the reasons is the
'reactive' approach to the
local issue - (the
'environmental' concerns
have already been stated, by
others -) there are
issues of money, -- and,
lobbying, -- etc - (the town of
cortland - a proposed new tail -)
a 'pro-active' approach, of
'education' on all levels,
(recycling schools (rather, than tail)
would much better serve
the community.

Sincerely,
Steve Anderson
24935 McQUEEN RD
Malta, IL -
60150

815-825-2476