

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

George Wissmiller
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DeWitt, IL 61735
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4/30/2009

Steve Johnson
E.P.A

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I consider myself a realist. After a lifetime in government employment I am quite proficient at recognizing what is really happening in a government process.

DeWitt County is a relatively small and poor county. Residents have to work for a living - don't have a lot of time to protect themselves and can't afford to hire the attorneys necessary to protect themselves from Peoria Disposal and the federal government in the form of the EPA. That is undoubtedly the main reason we are being targeted for the toxic dump.

Other counties where the Coulters have interests, including their home county of Peoria, could better protect themselves - so - no toxic dumps.

After the April meeting it is obvious that the EPA is a huge, unstoppable juggernaut focused solely on approval of the putting the toxic dump over the drinking water. Cleverly no time is allowed in the remaining process for working folks to mount any type of effective defense of our drinking water and environment.

So, realistically, it's time to focus on post approval activities. Once it becomes obvious what the inevitability of failure (nothing manmade lasts forever) of the toxic dump does to things like area property values and especially if the plastic sheet and dirt "protection" fails rapidly there will be any number of attorneys from DeWitt and surrounding counties involved in the litigious feeding frenzy. Attorneys always focus on the "deep pocket" - in this case the federal government and the employees backed by the federal government with DeWitt County and the DeWitt County Board a distant second.

I'm thinking that the EPA has some immunity built into the law protecting itself and its employees from responsibility for their irresponsible approvals and that concerns me. I'm also thinking that immunity doesn't extend to knowingly and deliberately misrepresenting the facts publicly and in published reports especially after the inaccuracy has been brought to your attention.

A linchpin in the "protection" allegedly being provided us is the 40 feet of soil under the toxic dump site.

At the April meeting with the DeWitt County Board you repeatedly referred to this dirt

under the toxic dump at "clay" and based a large part of you presentation on the impenetrability of clay to water.

You also admitted that you really didn't know what the soil really consisted of - specifically didn't know about sand pockets or sand content. I suspect that this lack of knowledge extend to the decaying plant matter content, presence of voids, etc. So you really don't know what is in the soil under the toxic dump site. So referring to it - either verbally or in a report - as "clay" is patently inaccurate. After this letter it is also knowingly, provably and deliberately inaccurate and has been called to your attention.

Testing procedures (core samples and sonic imaging) exist to determine this so the problem is you don't think the situation (the protection of 750,000 people) warrants the expense - not that the information isn't attainable.

I'm do not know all the scientific jargon but "soil of indeterminate content" would be more accurate.

This grievous and dangerous error needs to be corrected in future meetings and documents however, unfortunately, you have already falsely created the public impression that you know the soil layer is "clay" and that needs to be corrected thoroughly by you in the media in this area prior to the hearing.

Like I said - I'm a realist. I'd prefer accurate reporting but realistically you're not going to correct this - it would interfere with and delay the approval process and irritate your clients at Peoria Disposal. Like I said - I'm thinking post approval.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated inattention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. H. Wissmiller', written in a cursive style.

George H. Wissmiller

CC:

Lisa Jackson
Bharat Mathur
Robert Kaplan