

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



**DeWITT COUNTY STATE'S
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

COUNTY BUILDING
201 WEST WASHINGTON
CLINTON, IL 61727
PHONE: (217) 935-8391
FAX: (217) 935-4833



Richard G. Koritz
State's Attorney

Darrell S. Price
Assistant State's Attorney

May 15, 2009

Rafael P. Gonzalez, Public Affairs Specialist
Land and Chemicals Division (L-8J)
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: INFORMATIONAL MEETING AT CLINTON ON CHEMICAL WASTE LANDFILL
PROPOSA.

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

You asked for my observations of the EPA's presentation in Clinton. The observations that follow are my own and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the County Board.

I found the presentation informative. The presentation was slanted towards the implementation of a chemical waste landfill in Clinton, but I did not expect otherwise. The power point presentation and Mr. Johnson's statements and responses to questions clearly indicated that the EPA position was favorable to the proposed CWL. That is a position that the residents of DeWitt County have voiced opposition to.

Several people voiced concerns with the CWL. Every person that asked a question was given the time to place the question and the question was responded to. A couple of times, I believe Mr. Johnson misunderstood a question by his response, but the party posing the question never asked a follow up question for clarification. I found the entire meeting to be cordial and polite. The community did appreciate that your group came down from Chicago and took the time to answer questions. Your group even gave additional time to the media after the public questions had been answered. I was personally impressed by the tenor of the meeting.

I do have concerns regarding some of the substantive issues raised;

1. It was clear that the EPA does a balancing act when a CWL is placed. Being a small county there is the concern that we are being balanced against the larger metropolitan areas.
2. The issue of **long term** liner safety was not adequately addressed from a resident's perspective. It was clearly stated that the proposed liner plan exceeds the EPA requirement. Perpetual Care issues simply were not addressed in a manner that resolves local concerns.

3. Much of the concerns generated locally refer to the Mahomet Aquifer. Mr. Johnson spent much time describing what he viewed as the safeguards in the current plan. I refer you to #2 above. Additionally, he then described another aquifer at a much more shallow depth. That really caught my attention as my well is in that aquifer. Safety issues for that aquifer need further addressing, as Clinton and much of the County residents get their water from that same supply.
4. The aspect of water well testing also needs to be further discussed.

I sincerely appreciate the time your group gave to the community and found it worthwhile. I believe your group tried to be responsive to all questions asked and no one was denied the time to ask their question. I realize that several will never understand what the EPA seeks to do in these matters and what limitations are on the EPA. We, as a community, are concerned about health and safety issues. This proposal is on top of water supply. There is a section of this county that has no water underneath it, which to many appears to be a much safer place for a CWL.

I do not have a crystal ball as to what the future will bring if the permit is granted. I am very concerned about health and safety, especially 30 plus years down the road. I also realize that controlled CWL is probably safer than leaving PCB's all over the country. The question is, in whose back yard.

The bottom line assessment is that your EPA group preached the company line, but responded to all adverse questions in a professional manner. There are certainly issues out there that need to be addressed as this community, as shown in public votes, is not supportive of a chemical waste landfill in Clinton. Having said all that, I personally was appreciative of your time and efforts in explaining the EPA side of the equation. Time will provide the ultimate answer, whatever that may be.

Sincerely,

Dick Koritz
State's Attorney