

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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Copy for: Steve Johnson EPA

Dear Sir,

I have got involved in the fray over dumping PCB's in the Clinton landfill over two domestic water aquifers. Due to my efforts with S.U.R.S. I had to join this battle rather late so I am catching up.

I attended a meeting held by the E.P.A. in Clinton in April. I was appalled by what I found. The E.P.A. is about to OK hauling extremely toxic PCB's probably mostly from the Chicago area into our county by the trainload and dumping them on top of two aquifers providing domestic water.

The basic question the E.P.A. isn't even addressing is why in this huge country is it more realistic and responsible to dump PCB's on top of two residential drinking water aquifers then to dump is somewhere else where it wouldn't be over drinking water?

The EPA's idea of "protection" between the PCB's and the drinking water is two sheets of plastic some "kitty litter" (their term) and 40 feet of what they insist on referring to as "impenetrable clay" while admitting publicly they don't know what it really is.

Their idea of a testing routine was to test the first aquifer every three months and run those tests on samples provided by Peoria Disposal. Kind of like a high school exam being closed book and take home. Depending entirely on the honesty of the people profiting from the test results. The meeting was rife with other absurdities.

And we and the EPA already know Peoria Disposal isn't being honest. They told the Board they wouldn't be hauling in liquid PCB's but the State EPA report says they intend to. The E.P.A. also said at the hearing that PCB's break down quickly naturally which they do not so they are not being honest either.

The EPA appears to be completely out of control at lest on this issue. At the meeting I asked what I and numerous other citizens present considered serious questions and the EPA literally laughed at me. They are not even pretending to be impartial let alone protecting the environment. The openly and routinely refer to themselves and Peoria Disposal as "we" when talking about their joint efforts to OK this debacle. They reserved seats for Peoria Disposal but the proponents of the environment had to hope seats were available for them. They treat Peoria Disposal as valued and exclusive client.

From talking to other people I'm gathering that you and your office are pretty much taking a pass on this issue. This affects the health and safety of 750,000 area people.

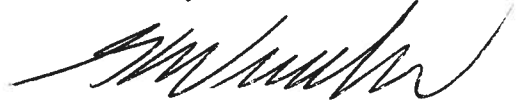
I intend to be extremely active in future elections. Not so much supporting or working against any individual candidate - more making sure that credit is given where credit is due both positive and negative on past issues. I think is more reliably indicative of future performance. I do web development, letters to the editor, and have a lot of flexible time so I'm a good one to get involved.

It occurred to me that taking other people's information for what you and your office were doing on this issue and publicizing it at election time was more than just a bit unfair so I am checking directly with you.

On the issue of toxic PCB's being hauled in by the trainload and dumped on top of the drinking water supply of 750,000 area residents and the E.P.A.'s patently incompetent approval process are you actively involved in this issue and, if so, what is your stand and what are you doing? If you are not involved/disinterested in this issue not responding within 15 days will certainly indicate that.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. H. Wissmiller', with a stylized, flowing script.

George H. Wissmiller

CC:

Illinois Rep. Bill Mitchell
Illinois Senator Bill Brady
US Rep. Tim Johnson
US Senator Richard Durbin
US Senator Roland Burris
Steve Johnson EPA