

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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Dear Sir,

I find myself in a strange situation. Putting the toxic dump on top of two currently used aquifers when there are any number of other locations in this huge country where it wouldn't be over domestic water supplies is a both a patently irresponsible and irrational act. Plus any system built by man will eventually fail so failure is guaranteed. I worked for the government for many years and sympathize with your position. You are tasked with making the obviously irrational and irresponsible seem rational and responsible. However my friends and family are drawing this water and that has to take precedence - hence this **Freedom of Information Request**. Surely answers to the following questions are already available as them would be from any adequate study.

If I understand your testing regime correctly the routine testing will consist of your testing samples supplied by the Landfill personnel. Such a regimen is fatally flawed in its design. The Landfill personnel are obviously extremely biased (there's a lot of money involved here). Depending on them to collect samples is asking for trouble. I'm not saying that they would submit false samples - the point is that you can't say they wouldn't so you have no idea what you are testing.

You say you protect against this by watching for discrepancies. Now that the Landfill personnel have been put on alert at the public meeting they could easily run their own tests before submitting the samples and adjust the samples to avoid discrepancies or use samples from a remote location always.

My first questions are will there be any routine testing done where the Landfill personnel couldn't easily control the results? Will baseline tests be run and who will control them? Are any tests being run on the soil under the landfill now to see how much poison is leaching into our drinking water already from their other Landfill activities - certainly an indication of future intent? Has any checking been done for PCB's in the soil under the landfill right now - my understanding is that many landfills are improperly storing them.

Second - Obviously the faster the Landfill/EPA can ramrod this through the better for them - it takes time to rally and educate citizens. This is currently running through at breakneck speed for a legal process. Is there any way available to us, the citizens/victims, to slow this down to the point where we can mount a defense - any sort of motions or

appeals?

Third who is your office's supervisor. Obviously we need to complain about this debacle.

Fourth - now that you have made it VERY obvious that this is a done deal and that you are very much in cahoots with the Landfill in their efforts to get this passed ASAP regardless of the consequences what is the post approval appeal process? You may say you are impartial but you reserve seats for the landfill personnel and not for W.A.T.C.H. and refer to the efforts of the EPA and the Landfill as "we" routinely - you're not even trying to maintain an appearance of impartiality. You provide handouts to the Landfill personnel at the public meeting that are not available to the public - obviously and casually catering to them.

Fifth and related - can I get a copy of the handout provided to the Landfill personnel at the meeting but kept for the public?

Given the invalidity of the EPA's testing is there any provision for the victims to test their own water at Landfill/EPA expense? You were all amused by this question from me about protecting ourselves at the meeting - now answer it!

My understanding is that the testing in the wells - even if samples are provided properly - will indicate a problem only after the people using the upper aquifer have been poisoned - possibly for as long as three months. Is there any provision to test the soil on top of their aquifer and under the dump - any attempt to protect them?

The plastic sheets that will supposedly protect us. What are the test results on their life expectancy? Have they been tested for life expectancy in our soil conditions (I believe we have very alkali soil)? Have they been tested for life expectancy in contact with the "kitty litter"? Have they been tested for life expectancy in contact with PCB's? What's in the "kitty litter" - is it toxic?

Is there any data on the incidence of cancer and other PCB related diseases/conditions in the vicinity of PCB dumps especially where the "protection" has failed? If so what is it?

You mentioned that PCB's break down naturally. How quickly does that happen? Will the PCB's at the landfill break down that quickly in the protected environment there or will this slow this process? Would they break down quicker if they were stored where they didn't have to be covered and put on top of plastic?

Have there been any studies on the effects of toxic waste dumps on area property values?

You admitted you knew there was sand under the landfill. Quantitatively what is the sand content in the clay under the landfill? Are there any sand pockets that would effectively substantially reduce the "protection" allegedly provided by the clay?

The PCB's that you are going to allow to be hauled into our County by the trainload and

dumped on top of our water supply - where are they originating. From what areas and what processes? Will we be receiving PCB laden soil for cleanup operations elsewhere? **Where in Illinois or the adjoining states are these types of toxic wastes being generated or moved and where in that area are other toxic dumps like you are allowing in our County?**

PCB's can be destroyed - why is storing them over aquifers the more responsible alternative? **NO** it's not a ridiculous question and I want an answer.

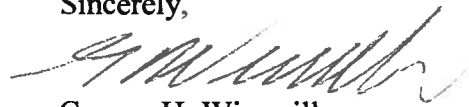
I'm very well aware that this is almost certainly a lost cause - the decision has already obviously been made irrevocably. I have two goals here. The first is to revise the perception of DeWitt County. We are getting a reputation as a backwater county easily targeted for dumping of all sorts of toxic substances. We have a landfill, a nuclear reactor, now PCB's, another nuclear reactor in our future and all sorts of stuff that's been dumped in our lakes over the years. I want to let the toxic dumpers and handlers represented by the state and federal government agencies know that we will fight tooth and nail against future threats. Secondly I want to expose the basic and extremely dangerous flaws and omissions in the evaluation system of both the State and Federal E.P.A's.

If it's not extremely dangerous then why all the "extra" protections? The Coulters are not exactly known for their philanthropy or their environmental concern - especially not in this County.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I am not affiliated with W.A.T.C.H. While we have similar goals and I respect their efforts we have substantially different ideas in how to attain them.

I look forward to your answers and seeing you at the public hearing. I assume you will schedule the hearing at the convenience of your clients at the Landfill and then tell us when it is in case we can attend? I'd like copies of any correspondence between you and the Landfill personnel setting up the hearing schedule.

Sincerely,

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

George H. Wissmiller

