

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

EPA Taking Comments on Proposed PCB Disposal

Clinton Landfill

Clinton, Illinois

June 2011

Public Comment Process

You may submit written or oral statements on the proposed PCB disposal application at the June 9 public meeting at Clinton High School, or in writing by midnight June 15 using one of these methods:

- Mail to Rafael P. Gonzalez, Public Affairs Specialist, EPA Land and Chemicals Division (mail code L-8J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.
- Email to gonzalez.rafaelp@epa.gov.
- Fax to Gonzalez at 312-582-5865.
- Online at: www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/wptdiv/sites/ClintonLandfill/cl-application.html.

EPA's response to comments will be available online and at the Clinton public library.

Questions?

Rafael P. Gonzalez

EPA Community Involvement
Coordinator
312-886-0269
gonzalez.rafaelp@epa.gov

Call EPA toll-free:

800-621-8431, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., weekdays

FOR MORE INFORMATION

You can review the application and other relevant documents at the Clinton Public Library, 310 N. Quincy St.

www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/wptdiv/sites/ClintonLandfill/
www.epa.gov/lawsregs/index.html

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is taking public comments on an application to dispose of polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, at the Clinton Landfill. The Agency will consider all public comments before making its final decision. (See box at left for details on ways to comment.)

Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), EPA has the authority to regulate the disposal of PCBs. In 2007, Clinton Landfill Inc. of Peoria applied to EPA for approval to build a new disposal cell in its landfill located two miles south of Clinton on State Route 51. EPA has conducted a rigorous review of the company's application and determined that the new cell appears to meet federal technical requirements for proper disposal of PCBs.

PCBs belong to a broad family of manmade organic chemicals known as chlorinated hydrocarbons. Domestic manufacturing of PCBs began in 1929 and continued until production was banned in 1979. Due to their non-flammability, chemical stability, high boiling point, and electrical insulating properties, PCBs were used in hundreds of industrial and commercial applications.

Once in the environment, PCBs do not readily break down and may remain for long periods cycling between air, water, and soil. PCBs have been demonstrated to cause cancer, as well as a variety of other adverse health effects on the immune system, reproductive system, nervous system, and endocrine system.

EPA's REVIEW AND GEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Under TSCA, EPA is required to investigate how soil, ground water, and chemicals will interact at a proposed PCB site and whether it could affect water resources. EPA geologists have concluded that PCB disposal in the proposed cell would not adversely affect water resources.

A 150-foot-deep layer of waterproof clay protects underground water supplies (ground water). Central Illinois municipalities, industries, and farms rely on this extensive clay "pan" to protect drinking water from pollution by chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides.

In addition, Clinton Landfill Inc. has taken steps not required by federal regulations to safeguard ground water. The company installed three layers of liners and a liquid waste collection system at the bottom of the PCB cell. It has also lined the landfill with a dense three-foot layer of clay.