



Sierra Club

Heart of Illinois Group



P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61614

Issues Regarding

PDC/Peoria Disposal Company Hazardous Waste Landfill

Located at 4349 Southport Road, Peoria, 61615

(just west of Pottstown off of Route 8)

- 1) A hazardous waste landfill should not be located next to the city of Peoria: it is a threat to public health and safety.**
- 2) The PDC hazardous waste landfill is a threat to our water supplies.**

Definitions of Hazardous Waste:

U.S.CODE

TITLE 42 - THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

[CHAPTER 82 - SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SUBCHAPTER I - GENERAL PROVISIONS § 6903](#)

Note: The U.S. Code (i.e. statutes), always supersedes The Code of Federal Regulations-CFRs (i.e., regulations). The Code is written by elected representatives, whereas regulations are written by appointed members of the executive branch. Regulations are promulgated pursuant to specific statutes, and cannot conflict with those statutes or go beyond the purpose of the statutes.

(5)... "**hazardous waste**" means a solid waste, or combination of solid wastes, which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may - (A) cause, or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or (B) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, or otherwise managed. (For another definition, see CFR Part 243 below)

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

SUBCHAPTER I, [PART 243 \(1995\) - GUIDELINES FOR THE STORAGE AND COLLECTION OF RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INSTITUTIONAL SOLID WASTE](#)

Hazardous Waste: A waste or combination of wastes of a solid, liquid, contained gaseous, or semisolid form which may cause, or contribute to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible illness, taking into account the toxicity of such waste, its persistence and degradability in nature, its potential for accumulation or concentration in tissue, and other factors that may otherwise cause or contribute to adverse acute or chronic effects on the health of persons or other organisms. (For another definition, see U.S. Code above)

Examples of Hazardous Waste in the PDC Landfill:

The Environmental Protection Agency, Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) lists the following hazardous heavy metals for PDC (data sheets attached at end):

| | <u>TRI 2003</u> | <u>TRI 2000</u> | <u>TRI 1998</u> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Landfill total pounds | 22,056,023 | 18,665,371 | 21,600,700 |
| Air Emmissions total (pounds) | 1,533 | 2,560 | 542 |
| LANDFILLED (partial list): | | | |
| Cadmium compounds | 25,500 | 32,800 | 22,400 |
| Chromium compounds | 457,700 | 550,000 | 265,000 |
| Lead compounds | 1,258,000 | 1,416,000 | 1,560,000 |
| Mercury compounds | 23 | 671 | |
| Nickel compounds | 55,300 | 370,900 | 44,400 |
| Zinc compounds | 17,060,000 | 13,876,000 | 17,341,000 |
| AIR EMISSIONS (partial list): | | | |
| Cadmium compounds | 3 | 5 | 0 |
| Chromium compounds | 21 | 250 | 5 |
| Lead compounds | 88 | 250 | 12 |
| Nickel compounds | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Zinc compounds | 1,170 | 1,545 | 255 |

Concerns Regarding Safety:

1) All Landfills Eventually Leak

Quoted from the website for Zero Waste America (Lynn Landes, Philadelphia, PA)

All landfills will eventually fail and leak leachate into ground and surface water. Plastics are not inert. State-of-the-art plastic (HDPE) landfill liners (1/10 inch or 100 mils thick) and plastic pipes allow chemicals and gases to pass through their membranes, become brittle, swell, and breakdown.

"...82% of surveyed landfill cells had leaks while 41% had a leak area of more than 1 square feet," according to [Leak Location Services, Inc. \(LLSI\)](#) website (March 15, 2000).

According to Dr. Fred Lee, "detection in new landfills can be difficult since the only way to know this is detection in the monitoring wells. The likelihood of a monitoring well at a single or double lined landfill detecting an initial leak is very small." Monitoring wells should be located in areas most likely to detect contamination (i.e., testing the ground water after it has passed under the

landfill.) See: [Subchapter I: Solid Waste](#). Lined landfills leak in very narrow plumes, whereas old, unlined landfills will produce wide plumes of leachate.

2) The PDC Hazardous waste landfill is a threat to our water supplies:

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club is concerned that the San Koty aquifer could be affected by the PDC landfill. Part of the aquifer is near the PDC site. An earthquake from the New Madrid fault line, explosion, or a leak in the landfill could contaminate this major underground aquifer. There is a creek near the PDC landfill that runs into the Kickapoo Creek, which ends in the Illinois River. The safety of this water drainage is also a concern.

3) The PDC Hazardous Waste landfill is a threat to public health and safety:

53,190 people live within three miles of the PDC Hazardous Waste Landfill (source EPA ECHO report attached). Residential areas to the immediate east of the landfill include senior citizen centers, numerous apartment buildings, and private homes. Peoria County is already heavily polluted counties from air release of other industries. Our air quality is also polluted from coal-fired power plants to the south of the city. Having tons of buried hazardous waste is a time-bomb for generations in the future. At some point, the PDC landfill will leak. For the future health and safety of Peoria citizens, hazardous waste should not be buried near highly populated residential areas.

Compiled by Joyce Blumenshine, Heart of Illinois Sierra Club