

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE LANDFILL EXPANSION

The Landfill Is In a Earthquake Impact Zone

Waste Management used outdated information when they said the landfill would be safe from earthquakes. The USGS updated the Illinois seismic hazard map subsequent to the February 10, 2010 earthquake northwest of Elburn. The new USGS report makes it clear that the landfill is in an earthquake impact zone and in danger of creating a very hazardous condition if affected by an earthquake.

Groundwater Issues

The landfill is likely to leak into the water supply but after Waste Management is long gone and we are left with a mountain of garbage from Cook County and other northeast Illinois counties.

"The release of contaminants from the landfill and the degradation of the DeKalb County groundwater quality are likely to create problems for future county boards."

The proposed landfill expansion creates a gigantic plastic trash receptacle; partly buried 50 feet below the water table. This means that leakage from the landfill will enter directly into the water table because of the water flow around the liner. However this most likely will not happen until after the post-closure and monitoring periods. Waste Management did not include an evaluation of the impact of this leakage on the water supply because the ILEPA process does not require this for the post closure period.

To avoid this scenario in Kendall County Waste Management Inc. proposed a design which put the landfill bottom above the water table. Why not in DeKalb County?

DeKalb County needs to require a Groundwater Impact Assessment (GIA) to evaluate the impacts to groundwater that will develop later for our grandchildren to deal with, this assessment needs to be required for the public health, safety, and welfare of future generations.

Better Monitoring Needs to Be Required

Waste Management's plan for monitoring the landfill cells could possibly lead to a masking of potential danger.

The County needs to require monthly checks of leachate generation in each individual cell.

Also Waste Management hydrogeologic data provided with the application was for a 3 month period which was during the driest 3 months. This prevents an accurate indication of how the new addition will affect underground water flow.

Based on the information provided in the application it would indicate that after the new site is in place the water will flow below the planned monitoring wells preventing proper protection for the water and the citizens.

To protect the citizens of the county into the future and to protect the water the County needs to require monitoring for many years beyond the 30 required by the ILEPA.

Sources

The above information was provided for the citizens' group Stop the DeKalb County Mega-Dump by Geo-Hydro Inc. a Consulting firm in geology and hydrogeology. This firm has been operating since 1996. They have worked extensively both for governmental bodies as well as for the private sector.