

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 3, 2012

Honorable Susan Hedman, Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Regional Administrator Hedman:

We are writing to express our concern about the proposed industrial waste facility at Clinton Landfill in DeWitt County.

The Peoria Disposal Company would like to dispose of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) on 23 acres of Clinton Landfill No. 3, directly above the Mahomet Valley Aquifer. The aquifer provides drinking water for close to 850,000 people in central Illinois. PCBs are a known carcinogen, and just one leak from the waste facility could permanently contaminate the aquifer, leaving hundreds of thousands of people without a safe source of drinking water.

Because PCBs are regulated under the Toxic Substances Control Act, US EPA has authority to approve or deny Peoria Disposal's proposal to dump PCBs at Clinton Landfill. We commend U.S. EPA's decision following conclusion of the public comment period to further evaluate the Clinton Landfill site's hydrology.

Clinton Landfill is not the only option. Four facilities are already authorized to accept PCB waste in the EPA Region 5 area alone, including one in Illinois. PCBs can be safely disposed of in these alternative locations, while ensuring the Mahomet Valley Aquifer continues to provide safe drinking water.

Soon, a group of central Illinois communities will submit a Sole Source Aquifer application for the Mahomet Valley Aquifer. The communities hope such designation will provide increased protection for the aquifer. Please keep us apprised as you consider the sole source application and continue to evaluate the proposed waste facility at Clinton Landfill.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator



Mark S. Kirk
U.S. Senator