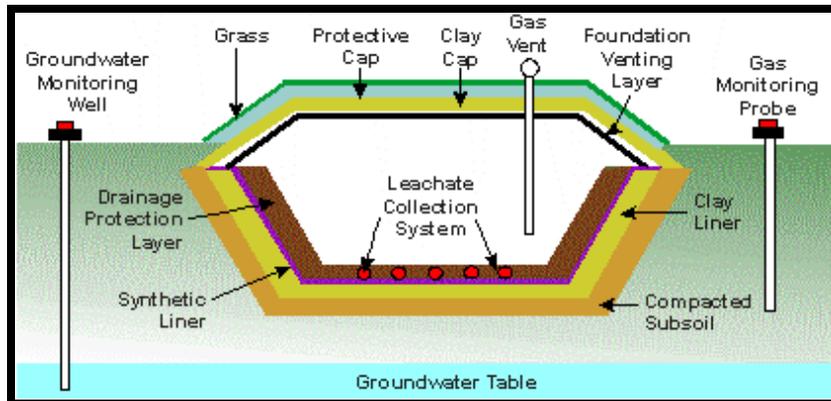
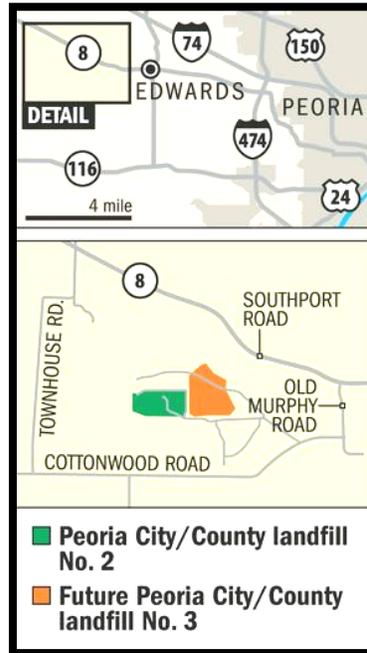




Pollution Control Facilities and the Siting Process

A Citizen's Guide
to Landfill #3



Visit www.peoriacounty.org to view the application and related documents

In Illinois, local governments, like Peoria County, have the responsibility of approving the location of pollution control facilities such as landfills, waste transfer stations, waste treatment facilities or incinerators. This is known as the siting process. The Illinois Environmental Protection Act describes in very specific detail the procedures a local government must follow during the siting process. Companies seeking siting approval in the unincorporated areas of Peoria County must follow the requirements of the Peoria County Board (Peoria County Code Section 7.5, www.peoriacounty.org).

What's going on?

The City of Peoria and Peoria County cooperatively own the local municipal waste landfills, dubbed Landfills #1 and #2. Sited in Edwards, IL, off Route 8, Landfill #1 was operated by Peoria Disposal Company (PDC) until 1998. Landfill #2, located on the same property, is the current waste facility for much of the county's residential and non-hazardous commercial waste. As this facility is expected to reach capacity in the next decade, the Peoria City/County Landfill Committee, which oversees the operations of Landfill #2, has been working with City and County staff to select a vendor to operate Landfill #3. The proposed facility will be located on the same property as Landfills #1 and #2. Peoria Disposal Company's proposed design met the City/County Landfill Committee's requirement of a 10 million ton capacity facility and the City and County are guaranteed waste disposal capacity for 25 years. PDC's proposal not only included a landfill but also a citizen's convenience center for the collection of recyclables, bulky items, and household hazardous chemicals.

Public Involvement in the Siting Process

The siting process is a very public one. Peoria County is required to take many steps to ensure the public is not only informed and educated about this project but also given the opportunity to provide testimony and comment:

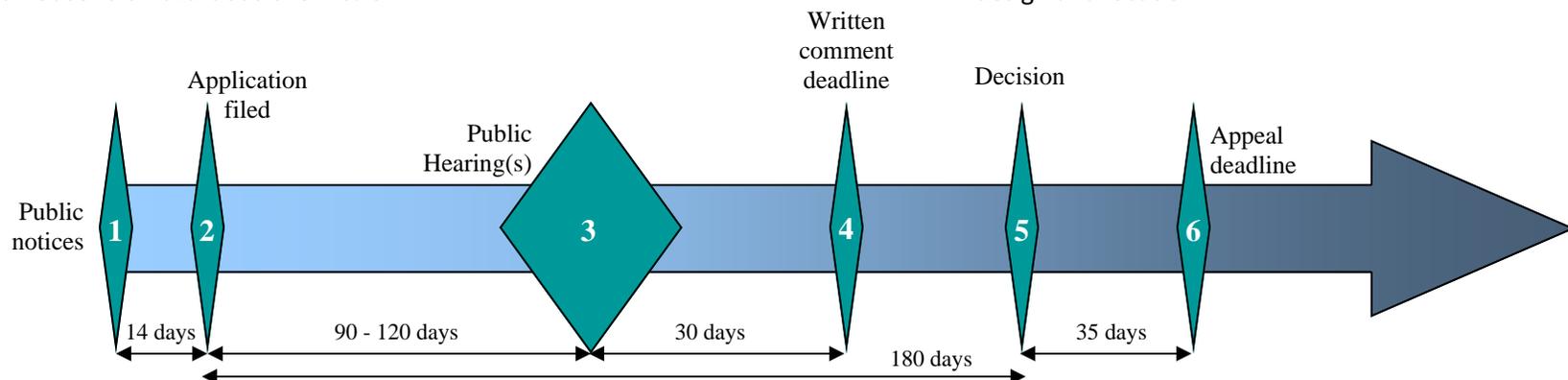
- The applicant must notify all property owners within 250 feet of the proposed site (No. 1 in timeline)
- The applicant must notify the Illinois General Assembly members in which the site is located (No. 1)
- The applicant must publish a notice in the newspaper (No. 1)
- Peoria County must conduct at least one public hearing between 90 and 120 days of receiving the application (No. 3)
- The public may offer testimony at the public hearing (No. 3)
- Peoria County must prepare a transcript of the public hearing for public review
- The public has up to 30 days after the final public hearing to comment in writing (No. 4)

From the time the request for site approval is submitted, Peoria County has up to 180 days to act on the application (No. 5 below). If no action is taken within the 180 days, the application is considered approved.

How is the local siting decision made?

State law specifies that the site location suitability be evaluated only in accordance with the following criteria:

1. The facility meets the needs of the area it is intended to serve
2. Public health, safety, and welfare are protected in the facility design and location



3. Care has been taken to minimize the incompatibility of the facility with the character of the surrounding area and property values
4. The facility is outside the boundary of the 100-year flood plain
5. The facility operating plans minimize the danger to the surrounding area from fire, spills, or other operational accidents
6. The traffic patterns to and from the facility minimize the impact on existing traffic flow
7. An emergency response plan for the facility has been developed to include notification, containment, and evacuation procedures in case of an accidental release
8. The facility is consistent with the County's solid waste management plan
9. Groundwater protection provisions have been met

Peoria County may also consider the previous operating experience and past record of convictions or admissions of violations of PDC (and any subsidiary or parent corporation) in the field of solid waste management.

The siting ordinance defines that only the application, presentations, testimony at the public hearing, and materials submitted into the official record (including public comments) can be used to determine whether the applicant has met the nine statutory criteria.

Can the local siting decision be appealed?

Yes. If Peoria County grants siting approval, a citizen opposed to the expansion may appeal the decision to the Illinois Pollution Control Board, provided the citizen has established an interest in the siting by offering testimony at a public hearing. If denied, the applicant may also appeal to the Illinois Pollution Control Board. In either case, only evidence presented during the original hearing may be considered.

Resources

"Siting a Pollution Control Facility in Illinois", Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, March 2003
www.epa.state.il.us/community-relations/pollution-control-facility-siting.pdf

Questions about the siting process can be directed to Peoria County at 309.681.2550.

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