

Mark W.

#26057

CITIZENS FOR CLEAN WATER, INC.
A Non-Profit Organization
Route 1, Box 187
Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653

Statement to Paul Means, Director, Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology, on the landfill permit application of RLH Sanitation, Inc., April 7, 1988.

Twin Lakes area residents value living in an area where the air is clean, where drinking water is safe, where clean, clear lakes and streams abound with fish.

Because of a serious threat to these treasures, Citizens For Clean Water (CFCW) has decided to do everything possible to stop the permitting of yet another landfill between Bull Shoals and Norfolk Lakes. CFCW (a nonprofit corporation) plans to start massive fund raising efforts to pay for the legal and technical services needed to accomplish this goal. We must stop this landfill for the following reasons:

1. The plans submitted for this proposed landfill do not meet the new EPA standards for landfills and are not "state of the art!" (See the attached statement by Hydrologist Tom Aley.)
2. Even if these plans were "state of the art," the EPA has determined that all landfills will leak eventually. Putting even a "state of the art" landfill between our two lakes, in Karst topography, directly upstream from the drinking water intake for Mountain Home, Cotter, Gassville, Lakeview, Midway and other communities, is extremely dangerous!
3. In the past, RLH (the applicant for the proposed landfill) has not followed their permit plans as submitted and approved, and has flagrantly violated both state and federal laws. Citizens For Clean Water intends to prove this in Federal court.
4. The Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology (PC&E) does not monitor landfilling operations effectively. Instead, they put landfill operators on the honor system to monitor themselves. PC&E makes feeble attempts to inspect, monitor, and test only when forced to do so through political pressure. Even then, they do not enforce the correction of discrepancies.
5. Independent, EPA-certified, laboratory tests conducted by Citizens For Clean Water, and verified by PC&E, show the Herb Lewis landfill, operated by RLH and directly adjacent to the proposed site, illegally discharging leachate containing hazardous and cancer-causing chemicals into our surface streams and our groundwater.

This is occurring directly UPstream from the drinking water intake. To date, RLH has not performed the remedial actions recommended by PC&E, on this site, but even those recommendations are not adequate to correct this dangerous situation.

6. Under pressure and lobbying by RLH, elected officials have been dragging their feet in doing a feasibility study on alternatives which could greatly reduce both the volume and the toxicity of solid waste going into landfills. RLH, together with other landfill operators in Northern Arkansas, has conducted an effective progaganda campaign, spreading false information on the "hazards of incineration." Even officials from PC&E are echoing these falsehoods. It is a known fact that trash, decomposing anaerobically in landfills, discharges large quantities of lethal gases into the air we breathe. It is impossible to monitor or even measure the effects of landfilling on air pollution. On the other hand, stack discharges and ash from incinerators can be monitored and controlled. Properly operated incinerators cause minimal air and water pollution when compared to landfills.

7. Since the proposed landfill would be privately owned it could become the "home" for solid waste generated in Springfield or Chicago or anywhere else. The choice is in the hands of the landfill operator! In Kentucky the courts ruled in favor of a private landfill operator allowing him to accept solid waste from New Jersey. Trash from a multi-state area has been dumped between Bull Shoals Lake and Lake Norfolk for a number of years. Continued dumping of large quantities of trash in this area for another 20 years, as projected in this permit application, would destroy our Twin Lakes area as a desirable place to raise our children, to retire, or to vacation.

Sincerely,



Ken Ziemer, Vice Presedent, CFCW

c.c. The United States Environmental Protection Agency.
Governor Bill Clinton
U.S. Rep. John Paul Hammerschmidt
State Senator Stephen W. Luelf
State Representative Ed Gilbert