## Rorthwest Card

Pollution - Cargill

## SPORTS

Blue Jays take charge Page 1B



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1989

35¢ newsstand

## Cargill burning permit OK'd

By GERARD DZIUBA

The Northwest Herald

SPRINGFIELD — The Cargill chemical company will be allowed to operate its controversial liquid waste incinerator.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency officials granted the Cottage Avenue firm a joint state and federal permit to run the incinerator and hold resin by-products it will burn for 90 days at a time.

The permit was issued by the state and federal environmental agencies despite objections about air pollution and safety

problems that residents raised this summer.

IEPA public involvement coordinator Keri Luly said those concerns did not fall on deaf ears.

"In essence, the permit gives us more control over operation of the incinerator. It was issued with conditions that the company has to follow. If it doesn't, it can be fined for every day violations exist," Luly said.

Cargill manufactures paint resins. It was operating the burner to eliminate the byproducts of manufacturing under the terms

of an interim permit.

Last year, state law mandated that the firm get a permanent Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit. During the application, IEPA officials held a hearing in May so that residents would have a say in the decision.

About a dozen people attended the meeting and told state officials the incinerator and smokestack emits a pungent odor that can be smelled in the Old Town section of Carpentersville.

They also said Cargill cannot be trusted to run the incinerator because past alleged safety problems have not been reported.

The permit calls for regular inspections, Luly said.

Carpentersville village board members filed written objections to the state agency saying that the incinerator is connected to a smokestack that violates village height restrictions.

The stack is 100 feet tall. Its height was recommended by the state EPA. Local ordinances allow structures to be only 35 feet tall and the village and Cargill have

See CARGILL, page 2

## rgil

been involved in a legal battle to see which regulations should be followed.

This week, the case made its way to the state Supreme Court, which is expected to decide the matter in about three to four months, said village President John Skillman.

If Supreme Court decides in the village's favor, the permit will still be valid, Luly said.

Skillman would not comment on the permit because of the legal fight. He said, however, that the village may have a case about a building permit that could have been incorrectly issued to construct the holding tanks.

"All I can say is right now we are going to check into the legalities of the permit," Skillman said.

The EPA permit also allows Cargill to have three storage tanks: two 8,000-gallon tanks to hold the by-product to be burned, and a 2,500-gallon tank to hold water to wash the floors of the plant.

Cargill employees brought the tanks up to IEPA standards and fall under provisions of the permit, Luly said.

But to do the work, local building permits were needed.

Cargill is only allowed to store the materials for 90 days. Then, it must be destroyed.

Residents do have recourse about the permit being granted. A 35-day appeal process starts Saturday, Luly said. Objection can be made to the state Pollution Control Board.

"Anyone who wants to file and appeal can contact me and I'll be happy to work with them," Luly said.