


Pollution - Cargill

Northwest Herald

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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 by-products 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

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