

Rizzi site is more than
a transfer station

I am a member of Citizens Opposing the Dump Expansion of E.C. Rizzi & Joan Tamelings's waste dump on Murphy Road in Woodridge. Mr. Rizzi has been operating a waste dump for several years in this location. It has only come to the attention of the local residents in the past 1-1/2 years due to its horrific odor and ever increasing size. He has had over 100 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency violations and continues to operate without recourse.

His property is in Bolingbrook, mostly in Will County, but a portion of it is in DuPage County. Bolingbrook has refused to make him conform to their own codes. They won't do anything because his property is located on the east side of Interstate 355 and the other three sides of his property are Woodridge property that is zoned residential but currently being farmed. It is owned by Gallagher & Henry home builders. I would seriously doubt if anyone would buy a half million dollar home that borders the Rizzi waste dump, I know several of the Gallagher & Henry homeowners across Woodward Avenue would not have bought there homes if they had been informed of Rizzi's operation beforehand.

What does it take to force a waste dump operator to run his business in accordance with the regulations? I don't know what stinks worse -- Rizzi's dump or the IEPA's response. Despite repeated violations of state regulations (too numerous to list), threats of legal actions, and a recent failed attempt to legalize his expanding business, he continues to operate without regards to the health and safety of his Woodridge and unincorporated Downers Grove neighbors. Mr. Rizzi tells us that he is operating a permitted landscape waste transfer station. But the latest round of inspections by the IEPA noted numerous continuing violations including: piles of spoiled food (have you ever smelled rotting cabbage?), manure, glass, construction debris, demolition debris, drywall, sod and more!

His operation is a lot worse than a landscape transfer station. His permit for a landscape transfer station requires him to move out everything he takes in within 24 hours. Please drive by his operation and tell me if you think those mountains are being moved within 24 hours! In the summer months we could not even use our new patios due to the horrific smell coming from his property. We have reported him to the IEPA numerous times, but they just send him a letter and forget about it. The IEPA can't seem to coordinate an appropriate and timely plan for bringing this business into compliance. The Bureaus of Air, Land and Water either don't know or don't care what the other ones are doing. As a result, they are being outsmarted and outmaneuvered by a small-time dump operator while the rest of us are left dealing with the stink of it all (literally and figuratively).

Makes you wonder how the IEPA stacks up against the big-time dump operators who have lots of lawyers to protect their huge financial interests.

P.S. If any of your readers would like more information or have any ideas that will help us, please contact me at RobynDenton@AOL.COM.

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Woodridge