

# Waste firm shut until mulch removed

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Bolingbrook, IL -

The E.C. Rizzi & Associates Inc. landscape waste transfer facility in Bolingbrook was ordered closed Dec. 7 by a Will County Circuit Court judge's order.

The order, signed by Judge Bobbie Petrungaro, is effective immediately and stipulates the waste transfer facility will be eligible to re-open once the business verifies five piles of mulch have been removed from the premises to bring the facility into compliance with an Aug. 6 court order.

In rendering a six-point court order on Dec. 7, Petrungaro ordered the landscape waste facility to remain closed "until further order," and requires the business to supply weekly reports to the Will County Land Use Department detailing where materials are transported.

It also ordered the business to place a sign at the entrance to the site notifying customers of the closure.

According to J.R. Rizzi, operator of the business located in Bolingbrook but on the border of Woodridge just east of the Veterans Memorial Tollway, the business is in no hurry to remove the piles.

"All it means is that we cannot take in any more green grass clippings or green leaves until the mulch piles are removed. We really don't do much during the winter anyway with the landscape business, the grass and leaves. It's no big deal," said Rizzi, whose business also markets construction waste.

Rizzi said the business likely would remove the piles "by springtime."

"The ball is pretty much in our court now and we can do whatever we want," said Rizzi. "We have until springtime to get it done."

The Dec. 7 court order does not affect the construction waste portion of the business, Rizzi said.

"Just the landscape waste portion," Rizzi said.

The decision was hailed as a victory by village of Woodridge officials, who along with residents living east of the site have actively promoted the closure of the site.

"We believe the court's decision simply affirms what the village and its residents have said all along, that the facility is a dump site that is having a negative impact on the quality of life in that area and must close its doors until it complies with EPA standards," said Chris Bethel, director of public works for the village of Woodridge.

On Aug. 6, the court ordered the business to comply with seven specific items related to site cleanup and remediation and issued deadlines for the cleanup to be completed.

In November the court ruled the company was in contempt of court for failing to meet the cleanup deadlines, but extended the deadline until December to give the business additional time to remove the mulch piles.

The Dec. 7 court order has no effect on the 12-count suit filed by the Illinois attorney general's office against Rizzi earlier this year. A status hearing has been scheduled Monday, Jan. 28, related to the court-ordered cleanup.