



Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society

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June 24, 2005

Richard H. Hyde, Mayor

mayor@ci.waukegan.il.us

Mayor's Office (847) 599-2510

Dear Mayor Hyde:

Jeffery Camplin, Dunesland's health and safety professional who is an expert on asbestos, made a very disturbing discovery which pertains to the health and safety of the residents of the City of Waukegan and the surrounding area. The Waukegan Municipal Beach is littered with chunks of suspected asbestos debris which were identified by Mr. Camplin on Wednesday morning, June 22.

Over twenty pieces of this waste material were identified along the northern two mile portion of beach. Many of the pieces appear to be friable and are fractured, weathered, manufactured asbestos-containing waste products. We observed fractured brake shoes, fractured gaskets, and other asbestos products. This RACM (Regulated Asbestos-Containing Material) is dangerous to the health and safety of the public, particularly when it is friable.

No one should be in close proximity to regulated asbestos materials, whether they are fractured, manufactured asbestos waste products or microscopic asbestos which can become airborne and inhaled. These suspected asbestos-containing materials are suspiciously similar to the hundreds of pieces of confirmed asbestos-containing materials identified at the now shuttered Waukegan fishing pier beach / Midwest Generation- formerly Commonwealth Edison (closed to the public since 2003 due to excessive asbestos contamination) which borders the northern end of your Waukegan Municipal Beach.

This visible, apparent asbestos debris should be removed immediately by licensed abatement professionals. We also recommend that the beach sand undergo microscopic testing for carcinogenic and disease-causing asbestos fibers that may also be present on your beaches.

Our consultant previously identified that the Johns-Manville Superfund waste site continually spews trillions of asbestos fibers into Lake Michigan just north of your public beach. The prevailing Lake Michigan longshore current moves the asbestos southward. According to IEPA pollution discharge records, the Johns-Manville Superfund site released over 56 trillion asbestos fibers into the lake near the northern border of your beach in June, 2004 alone! These records are readily available from the IEPA and Waukegan should have been notified by IEPA Director Renee Cipriano about these exceedingly high numbers of asbestos fibers released into these State and Federal Navigable Waters where these fibers can subsequently reach municipal and private beaches to the south. The visible materials we recently identified as RACM should provide evidence that pollution in the lake is washing onto your beaches.

The Illinois Attorney General just released a report on asbestos contamination at Illinois Beach State Park. We have not completed analyzing this report yet, but will be coming out with the Camplin Report II shortly. The study found that the biggest hazard to public health was the handling of asbestos-containing materials. The study did not evaluate this high risk activity.

A second finding of the IAG's study was that the public should receive education on how to avoid disturbing these carcinogenic and disease-causing minerals. I am including a flyer our organization created for neighboring Illinois Beach State Park to warn the public about the hazards of asbestos and ways to avoid disturbing these materials. You have our permission to use this flyer and make copies. We would be glad to modify our copyrighted flyer and create a new version targeted for Waukegan. Please let us know.

Additionally, proper signage should be installed throughout the area warning beach users of RACM. There are regulations for signage which need to be followed. You may contact the state and federal officials who are copied below. They are supposed to be enforcing regulations of discharges into the State and Federal Navigable Waters of Lake Michigan. So far, they have failed to properly regulate the discharges of RACM. This asbestos problem is becoming more and more systemic on the Illinois shoreline with asbestos identified as far as Chicago. The state and federal officials copied below hopefully will begin to realize how serious this situation is and take more aggressive action, as has been done in Libby, Montana, California, and this week in Minnesota. You may also contact Jeffery Camplin. As an expert, he could advise you of the regulations on legal asbestos signage.

You need to realize that this is a very serious situation and the public counts on city officials to protect them. Please use all means available to you to remedy this situation. Recently, W. R. Grace officials in Libby, Montana were criminally indicted in federal court because they downplayed the dangers and kept quiet about the virulence of health-threatening asbestos.

I am also providing a few pictures (taken at the Waukegan beach on Wednesday) of what this regulated pollution looks like so you can identify these materials before the public disturbs them.

Unfortunately, we cannot visually identify microscopic asbestos which is extremely dangerous when inhaled. Beach activities such as digging sand castles, walking and running in the sand, playing volleyball, etc., all potentially can disturb microscopic asbestos which can become airborne and then unknowingly inhaled by families visiting the beaches.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Kakuris

Paul A. Kakuris, President

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Attachments:

Asbestos Safety Flyer

3 Waukegan beach photos, 6/22/05 (in letter)



June 22, 2005, Waukegan, IL Municipal Beach



June 22, 2005, Waukegan, IL Municipal Beach



**Note Waukegan, IL municipal beach just to the south of the fishing pier.
Also, note the sediment moving in the Lake.
Fall '04**