	Public Hearing April 19, 2023
1	Page 1 ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
2	(ILLINOIS EPA)
3	
4	IN RE: PROPOSED EXTENSION OF POST-CLOSURE CARE FOR
5	HAZARDOUS WASTE LANDFILL RCH NEWCO II, LLC IN LEMONT
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9	Public
10	Hearing in the above-entitled cause, commencing at
11	6:32 p.m. on the 19th day of April, 2023.
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	Public Hearing	April 19, 2023
1	MR. GUY: Okay. We're going to go	Page 2
2	ahead and get started with this public	
3	hearing. The current time is 6:32 Central	
4	Time. And good evening on behalf of the	
5	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency	
б	and its director, John Kim. Welcome to	
7	tonight's hearing. My name is Jeff Guy,	
8	and I am the Illinois EPA hearing officer.	
9	We look forward to receiving your comments	
10	after tonight's opening remarks. If you	
11	have connection or audio issues, please	
12	attempt to reconnect.	
13	This hearing is being held	
14	pursuant to regulatory procedures for	
15	permit and closure plan hearings, which can	
16	be found at Title 35 Illinois	
17	Administrative Code Part 166, Subpart A.	
18	These regulations are available on the	
19	Illinois Pollution Control Board website at	
20	pcb.illinois.gov. Again, that's	
21	pcb.illinois.gov. My responsibility this	
22	evening as the hearing officer is to ensure	
23	that this hearing is conducted in a fair	
24	and orderly manner according to these	



	Public Hearing
1	regulations.
2	This hearing is being
3	transcribed by a court reporter, and the
4	transcript of this hearing will be posted
5	on the Illinois EPA Bureau of Land public
б	notice web page in the same place where the
7	hearing notice and other pertinent
8	documents have been posted for public
9	review.
10	The Illinois EPA has tentatively
11	determined that the post-closure care
12	period for the RCH Newco facility in
13	Lemont, Illinois needs to be extended. A
14	representative from the Illinois EPA Bureau
15	of Land will provide more information on
16	this momentarily.
17	The Illinois EPA is conducting a
18	public comment period, including this
19	public hearing, to provide an opportunity
20	for the public to comment on this matter
21	prior to making a final determination. The
22	Illinois EPA is accepting written public
23	comments during the comment period. As
24	indicated in the public hearing notice,



	Public Hearing	Арп
1	which is shared on the screen, written	
2	comments must be received no later than	
3	11:59 p.m. Central Time on May 19th, 2023	
4	and should be submitted via e-mail to	
5	I'm going to give you an e-mail address	
6	epa.publichearingcom@illinois.gov, and that	
7	is also provided in the public notice.	
8	Again, that's	
9	epa.publichearingcom@illinois.gov. Or they	
10	can be mailed to the Illinois EPA,	
11	attention myself, Jeff Guy, Hearing	
12	Officer, PO Box 19276, 1021 North Grand	
13	Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62974-9276.	
14	Again, this information is provided in the	
15	public notice. Please reference "RCH	
16	Newco" in your e-mail or letter.	
17	Written comments are given the	
18	same consideration as oral comments made	
19	during this hearing and may be submitted to	
20	the Illinois EPA at any time during the	
21	comment period. Although we will continue	
22	to accept written comments through May	
23	19th, 2023, tonight is the only time that	
24	we will accept oral comments. The Illinois	



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1	EPA will fully consider and respond to all	Page
2	significant oral and written comments.	
3	At this time, a representative	
4	from the Illinois EPA Bureau of Land will	
5	provide information we believe is relevant	
6	to tonight's hearing. This will be	
7	followed by additional instructions from me	
8	on how we will receive public comments.	
9	MR. WATSON: Good evening. My	
10	name's Rob Watson. I've been the manager	
11	of the Resource Conservation and Recovery	
12	Act Unit, otherwise known as the "RCRA"	
13	Unit, since 2018. The RCRA Unit is within	
14	the Permit Section of the Bureau of Land	
15	within the Illinois EPA. In that capacity,	
16	I'm responsible for management of the	
17	hazardous waste permitting and corrective	
18	action programs in the State of Illinois.	
19	I recently retired from the Illinois EPA,	
20	but am currently working under contract as	
21	the RCRA Unit manager.	
22	I'm a professional engineer and	
23	have worked for the Illinois EPA for almost	
24	40 years. I spent all but one and a half	



	Public Hearing
1	years of that time in the Bureau of Land
2	Permit Section, and most of that time was
3	involved in the permitting of hazardous
4	waste facilities.
5	The purpose of my statement at
6	this public hearing is to provide a brief
7	overview of the permitting history related
8	to the RCH Newco facility in Lemont,
9	Illinois, current site conditions, and the
10	regulations governing the hazardous waste
11	landfill at the site, all of which served
12	as the basis for Illinois EPA's tentative
13	determination that post-closure care needs
14	to be extended at that landfill.
15	In the early 1990s, the RCH
16	Newco facility, formerly known as CECOs,
17	constructed a hazardous waste landfill in
18	Lemont, Illinois in accordance with the
19	closure plan. The landfill is
20	approximately two acres in size and
21	contains electric arc furnace dust, also
22	know as EAF dust, which is a hazardous
23	waste due to lead and cadmium. The EAF
24	dust is mixed in with non-hazardous slag.



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1	The bottom liner consists of three feet of	Page 7
2	recompacted clay, and the final cover	
3	consists of two feet of compacted clay, one	
4	and one half feet of fill, and one half a	
5	foot of topsoil with vegetation.	
6	On February 7, 1996, the	
7	Illinois EPA determined that post-closure	
8	care for the landfill began on January 1st,	
9	1993. Thus, the regulatory required	
10	30 years of post-closure care would last	
11	until at least January 1 of 2023.	
12	Post-closure care included requirements for	
13	monitoring, maintaining, and repairing the	
14	cover system as well as monitoring of the	
15	groundwater.	
16	On August 29, 1996, the Illinois	
17	EPA issued a modification to the	
18	closure/post-closure plan, which is Log No.	
19	C-68-M-5. Included in that modification	
20	was a condition stating that, pursuant to	
21	35 Illinois Administrative Code 703.121(b),	
22	the facility must also eventually obtain a	
23	RCRA post-closure permit.	
24	The groundwater monitoring	



		April 19, 2023
1	results indicate that the hazardous waste	Page 8
2	constituents in the landfill have not	
3	leaked out of the landfill during the past	
4	30 years. Currently, there is no leachate	
5	collection or monitoring system in the	
б	landfill.	
7	The management of hazardous	
8	waste in Illinois is regulated under RCRA	
9	and the federal/state regulations developed	
10	under it. These regulations give the	
11	Illinois EPA the authority to review and	
12	approve the design, construction,	
13	operation, monitoring, maintenance,	
14	closure, and post-closure care of units	
15	used to manage hazardous waste in the State	
16	of Illinois.	
17	The regulations for landfills	
18	are designed to remove liquids and keep the	
19	waste within the landfill as dry as	
20	possible. The landfill's liner and cover	
21	systems are designed to prevent liquids,	
22	such as precipitation and groundwater, from	
23	getting into the waste. This is because	
24	minimizing the amount of liquid within a	



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1	landfill minimizes the potential for the	Page
2	movement of hazardous constituents from	
3	within the landfill out into the	
4	environment.	
5	It's also important to note that	
б	the RCRA regulations are necessarily broad	
7	in nature, and USEPA has issued many	
8	guidance documents, technical memos, and	
9	letters to address more specific	
10	situations. These documents are available	
11	for use by both facilities and regulators	
12	for the operation and regulation of	
13	hazardous waste sites.	
14	In this case, the landfill's	
15	currently regulated under the Interim	
16	Status regulations at Title 35 Illinois	
17	Administrative Code Part 725. Title 35	
18	Illinois Administrative Code	
19	Section 725.218 includes provisions that	
20	allow Illinois EPA to extend the	
21	post-closure care period of a hazardous	
22	waste landfill if we determine that it is	
23	necessary to protect human health and the	
24	environment. The regulations require	



	rubic rearing	April 19, 2023
1	Illinois EPA to public notice our tentative	Page 10
2	decision to extend the post-closure period,	
3	review any comments received during the	
4	comment period, and, if necessary, hold a	
5	public hearing, such as this one here	
6	tonight, prior to making a final	
7	determination regarding the post-closure	
8	care of the facility.	
9	Illinois EPA informed the	
10	facility of its tentative decision to	
11	extend post-closure care at the facility in	
12	a letter dated November 15, 2022. The	
13	letter identified the reasons why extending	
14	post-closure care is needed to protect	
15	human health and the environment. As a	
16	recap of that letter: Hazardous waste	
17	remains in the landfill. The landfill	
18	liner and cover design does not meet the	
19	minimum technology requirements for	
20	landfills currently required by the	
21	hazardous waste landfill regulations,	
22	relev and the relevant regulations are	
23	cited in the letter.	
24	The landfill does not have a	



	Public Hearing
1	leachate monitoring or collection system,
2	so it cannot be determined if leachate is
3	present in the landfill. The presence of
4	liquids within a landfill increases the
5	risk of an unforeseeable and unknown
6	release of hazardous constituents into the
7	environment, if unmonitored.
8	And continued long-term care of
9	a landfill in the form of maintenance,
10	monitoring, and legally enforceable
11	controls is required to ensure that neglect
12	or future activities of a landfill do not
13	result in the release of hazardous waste or
14	hazardous constituents that could threaten
15	human health and the environment.
16	As noted in the letter, a viable
17	cover is one of the most important
18	mechanisms offering environmental
19	protection. It was noted in the letter
20	that the cover was not properly maintained,
21	and well-established tap roots were growing
22	on the landfill and into the landfill.
23	The November 15th, 2022, letter
24	also made the tentative determination for



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1	the facility to submit an application for a	Page 12
2	RCRA hazardous waste permit for the	
3	landfill once a final determination is	
4	made.	
5	Should the Illinois EPA's final	
6	determination affirm its tentative	
7	decision, the extended post-closure care	
8	for the facility would be conducted in	
9	accordance with a RCRA hazardous waste	
10	post-closure permit pursuant to Title 35	
11	Ill. Adm. Code Section 703.121 as well as	
12	Condition 1.b of the modified RCRA closure	
13	plan Log No. C-68-M-5 that was issued on	
14	August 29, 1996, rather than the closure	
15	plan the facility has been regulated under	
16	for the past 30 years.	
17	As noted by the Hearing Officer,	
18	the purpose of this public hearing is to	
19	provide a forum for the public to provide	
20	comments on the Illinois EPA's tentative	
21	decision to extend the post-closure care	
22	period of the RCH Newco facility's	
23	hazardous waste landfill. Upon conclusion	
24	of this public hearing and a follow-up	



	Fublic healing	April 19, 2023
1	post-hearing comment period, the Illinois	Page 13
2	EPA will review all comments received and	
3	take said comments into consideration when	
4	deliberating and finalizing our	
5	determination. Thank you.	
6	MR. GUY: Thank you, Mr. Watson.	
7	If you have extensive comments	
8	this evening, please consider giving only a	
9	summary of those comments and then	
10	submitting the entirety of your comments to	
11	the Illinois EPA before the end of the	
12	comment period on May 19th, 2023.	
13	While the record is open, all	
14	comments will be placed into the hearing	
15	record as exhibits. If anyone does not	
16	wish to make comments or if we cannot	
17	accommodate everyone who wishes to make	
18	comments this evening, for whatever reason,	
19	please submit your comments to the Illinois	
20	EPA in writing. Again, written comments	
21	are given the same consideration as	
22	comments made orally during this hearing.	
23	As the hearing officer, I intend	
24	to treat everyone in a respectful manner,	



	Рибис пеания	April 19, 2023
1	and I ask that Illinois EPA staff and the	Page 14
2	public please do the same. Comments should	
3	be relevant to issues associated with the	
4	Illinois EPA's tentative decision	
5	determination rather to extend the	
6	post-closure period.	
7	If your comments fall outside of	
8	the scope of this hearing, I may ask you to	
9	proceed to another issue. Again, all	
10	significant comments, written or oral, will	
11	be addressed as part of the Illinois EPA	
12	responsiveness summary. The responsiveness	
13	summary will also provide a statement of	
14	the Illinois EPA's final determination in	
15	this matter. All who provide their e-mail	
16	address, mailing address, or submit written	
17	comments during the comment period will be	
18	notified of the Illinois EPA's final	
19	determination in this matter and the	
20	availability of the responsiveness summary,	
21	which will be posted on the Illinois EPA	
22	Bureau of Land public notice web page.	
23	The Illinois EPA public notice	
24	for this hearing required registration by	



	Fubic heating
1	April 17th, 2023, to provide oral comments
2	during tonight's hearing. It should be
3	noted that the Illinois EPA did not receive
4	any request to provide comments during
5	tonight's hearing. Regardless, the
6	Illinois EPA will at this time will
7	allow oral public comments for the record.
8	So if you want to provide a comment, please
9	use the 'Raise Hand' feature. And when I
10	call on you to speak, be sure to unmute
11	your line. Please state your name and
12	affiliation for the record. And for the
13	benefit of creating an accurate record,
14	please spell your last name. Please keep
15	your comments courteous and on-topic, and
16	keep your comments no longer than five
17	minutes in length.
18	We're going to give it a few
19	minutes to see if there's anyone that may
20	connect and wish to make comments. Again,
21	that can be done by using the 'Raise Hand'
22	feature on the WebEx.
23	(A short break was had.)
24	MR. GUY: Just to repeat, the



	Public Hearing
1	Illinois EPA public notice did require
2	registration by April 17th, 2023, to
3	provide oral public comments this evening.
4	And although the Illinois EPA did not
5	receive any requests to provide comments
6	tonight, we are allowing oral comments by
7	using the 'Raise Hand' feature, if you
8	would like to provide oral comments.
9	So at this time, we're going to
10	wait just a few more minutes. We don't
11	have anyone on the call. And we'll give it
12	just a few more minutes, and if we don't
13	have anyone wishing to make oral comments,
14	we'll go ahead and conclude our public
15	hearing this evening. So we're going to
16	wait just a few more minutes. Thank you.
17	(A short break was had.)
18	MR. GUY: Okay. Well, that's going
19	to conclude our public hearing this
20	evening. If you did not present oral
21	comments tonight but still wish to comment,
22	please submit your comments your written
23	comments to the Illinois EPA, as directed
24	in the public notice, which can be accessed



	Public Hearing
1	at the Illinois EPA Bureau of Land public
2	notice web page. Written comments will be
3	included in the hearing record and reviewed
4	by the Illinois EPA as the responsiveness
5	summary is prepared. The record closes at
6	11:59 p.m. Central Time on May 19, 2023.
7	Please send your written comments to the
8	attention of myself, Jeff Guy, as indicated
9	in the public notice.
10	Pertinent documents are
11	available on the Illinois EPA Bureau of
12	Land public notice web page and at the
13	Illinois EPA office located at 1021 North
14	Grand Avenue East, Springfield, Illinois
15	62794 I'm sorry 62974. You can
16	obtain copies of available documents
17	through a Freedom of Information Request to
18	the Illinois EPA. This can be done through
19	our website, or you can contact myself
20	directly if you need help with this
21	request. I think I might have to re
22	correct the zip code. 62974 62794.
23	This must be a typo in my notes.
24	Again, you can obtain copies of



	i ubic realing	
1	available documents through a Freedom of	
2	Information Request to the Illinois EPA.	
3	That can be done through our website, or	
4	you can contact myself directly if you need	
5	help.	
6	Thank you for your participation	
7	this evening. The current time is	
8	6:56 p.m. Central Time, and this hearing is	
9	adjourned.	
10	(Which were all the proceedings had	
11	at this time in the above-entitled	
12	cause.)	
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1	Page 19 STATE OF ILLINOIS)) SS.
2	COUNTY OF COOK)
3	
4	Alyssa N. Kuipers, being first duly
5	sworn, on oath says that she is a Certified
6	Shorthand Reporter, Registered Professional
7	Reporter, doing business in the City of Chicago,
8	County of Cook and the State of Illinois;
9	That she reported in shorthand the
10	proceedings had at the foregoing public hearing;
11	And that the foregoing is a true and
12	correct transcript of her shorthand notes so taken
13	as aforesaid and contains all the proceedings had
14	at the said public hearing.
15	
16 17	alypson Kuipers
18	ALYSSA N. KUIPERS, CSR, RPR
19	
20	CSR No. 084-004857
21	CSR NO. 084-004857
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