

TO: Karen Eggert, Village of Round Lake Park, IL  
FROM: Doug Vehlow, 30 year resident of Round Lake  
RE: Groot Eco-Campus waste transfer station

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OCT 31 2013  
VILLAGE OF  
ROUND LAKE PARK

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG WITH GROOT ECO-CAMPUS

I don't see any problem with the Groot proposed solid waste transfer station [SWTS] in Round Lake Park. In fact, I see the SWTS as necessary and appropriate for our area. I believe Round Lake Park is acting most responsibly in advancing the placement of SWTS.

I've lived in central Lake County for 65 years, the last 30 in Round Lake. I've seen the growth in the area and recognize the increased load and pressure on all services necessitated by increased population. But having seen problems and mishandlings of similar proposals by local governments, I approached the February public information meeting with skepticism. Would design of the facility, its site and impact be such that local residents would see its value? If so, could the village then proceed in an orderly way to accomodate Groot and accomplish construction? At the meeting, I viewed exhibits and questioned Groot representatives, as did a friend I met there who's lived in proximity to the proposed site for his lifetime--longer than me.

One of my primary concerns had been possible odor problems. When annual spring barn-cleaning (manure removal & transfer) occurred at the old adjacent Grayslake Gelatin farm, we'd be able to tell at my home about 1½ miles away. I then considered this a very minor and temporary inconvenience concomitant with living in what was then a semi-rural area--part of the "cost" of providing me and others with fresh milk daily.

So I was ready to learn of an occasional scent problem from Groot when the wind was from the south. But this and my several other concerns were answered at the info session and subsequent public hearing. A building with negative air pressure and rapidly opening and closing doors quieted my concern. I also reasoned on my own that garbage arriving is already compacted, greatly reducing its surface area subject to scent-dispersion. I also learned that garbage would in fact, be "in-transit" from the time of its arrival at SWTS--that it would be on-site a very minimal amount of time before being loaded out. My nose won't have to "pay the price" for removal and transfer of the garbage we produce.

For many years I was a member of the Round Lake Management Commission, a group interested in maintaining environmental standards for the Lake. Though Groot is outside that watershed, I wondered how they might impact Squaw Creek. The design and planned operating procedures Groot laid out seem adequate to protect the creek. My concerns were allayed.

These several examples show the overall belief I left the info session and public hearings with--that Groot has planned a decent facility. And my friend, Terry Rockenbach, who came with similar concerns, told me he thought the facility would be o.k. He's lived and has run businesses on 120 within a mile of the facility. He's conducted a plumbing business, then sold it, developed a business park, been employed as a plumbing inspector for years, including for nearby villages. I consider his viewpoint valuable because of this background and his common sense.

I believe Lake County will be served well by having nearby a depot to which garbage trucks may travel and transfer waste to larger, more fuel-efficient semis. I think much motor fuel will be conserved by locating the facility in proximity to our villages' 60,000 or so people, the garbage we produce.

So I don't see a problem with Groot's SWTS in Round Lake Park. I consider it necessary to responsible and efficient garbage management in the area.

*Douglas C. Vellora*