

A Message from the Directors of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Departments of Public Health and Natural Resources

September 21, 2010

To: Potential Partner Organization

Re: Campaign to Prevent Illegal Dumping in Illinois

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) is partnering with the Illinois Departments of Public Health (IDPH) and Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Office of the Attorney General in a state-wide effort to prevent illegal dumping. The idea is to stop each small dumping event from becoming a larger, potential threat to public health and the environment and a costly mess that must be cleaned up with taxpayer's money. To launch this effort, we need cooperation and commitment from local government, enforcement agencies and other organizations and associations to provide educational information to citizens in your area.

Illegal dump sites often pose physical, chemical and biological hazards. Rainwater collecting in discarded items provides a place for mosquitoes to breed. Mosquito species recently analyzed from the large illegal dump site in Markham were found to be the species that are capable of carrying West Nile Virus and a type of encephalitis.

The attached fact sheet contains questions and answers about illegal dumping that may be helpful to you in reaching out to citizens in your town, township or county. By arming citizens with the proper information about how to report an illegal dumping incident, you may be able to stop a bad practice that ultimately affects all Illinois citizens. Our hope is that local officials will make use of the fact sheet information to place on your website with your logo and with the appropriate local contact for citizens to call about illegal dumping. We are also attaching the three public service announcements that Illinois EPA recorded for your use.

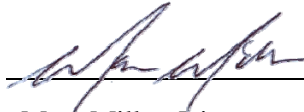
A kick-off news conference event will be held at the Markham former dump site at Oakley Avenue and 160th Street at the southwest corner of the former dump site on Wednesday, September 29. Parking is available at Adrianna's Sports Pub and Grill at 16300 S. Dixie Highway (163rd Street and Dixie), and shuttle buses will transport attendees to the news conference between 10:00 and 10:25. Parking is located on the north side of 163rd Street. The event begins at 10:30 a.m. and is expected to last one hour. Local, state and federal elected officials, representatives from law enforcement, fire protection and other local agencies and groups are expected to attend. For safety reasons, please wear sturdy shoes (tennis shoes or hiking boots) to the site. Your response to this invitation is requested but not required. If you have any questions or would like to RSVP, please contact Carol.fuller@illinois.gov or at 217/524-8807. In case of rain, the event will be held at the Markham Village Hall at 16313 Kedzie Parkway, phone number 708/331-4905.

The cost of cleaning up large dump sites can be in the hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' dollars. We hope to be able to count on your support in heading off this problem through vigilance and action by citizens and enforcement authorities at the local level. Illinois EPA can offer legal and technical assistance in your investigations and prosecutions. We look forward to working with you to address this serious and growing problem and making Illinois a better and safer place for our citizens!

Sincerely,



Douglas P. Scott
Director, Illinois EPA



Marc Miller, Director
Illinois Dept. of Natural
Resources



Damon T. Arnold, M.D., M.P.H.,
Director
Illinois Dept. of Public Health