

From: Anonymous <a67302935@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 5:54 PM
To: Aprel Prunty; Janessa Neal; Tamir Bell
Cc: Kassandra Schroeder
Subject: CONSTITUENT OBJECTION: Historical Sludge Contamination & Aquifer Risk - South Rockford TIF

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Dear Alderman Prunty, Alderman Wilkins, Alderman Bell, and Members of the Planning & Development Committee,

I am writing anonymously as a deeply concerned Winnebago County resident regarding the proposed South Rockford Industrial TIF District and the pending zoning changes within the rural corridor bounded by Route 251, Edson Road, Condon Road, South Bend Road, and Friday Road.

As you prepare for tomorrow's committee sessions and the upcoming voting window, you must be made aware of a critical environmental hazard that the city's TIF eligibility study completely omits.

Approximately 30 years ago, fields within this exact footprint were heavily utilized by the Rock River Water Reclamation District (now Four Rivers) for the large-scale dumping and land application of municipal sewage sludge. During that exact era, area residential drinking wells became directly contaminated as a result of those activities. Long-term residents can personally attest to this dumping history and the subsequent water degradation.

Our neighborhood relies entirely on private well water supplied by a highly permeable sand-and-gravel aquifer. This sandy soil acts like a sieve and has no natural filtering defense. If the city rushes these zoning upgrades to incentivize a multi-billion dollar developer, the heavy excavation and deep foundation work will break this containment. Churning up this ground poses an immediate threat of leaching legacy pollutants straight back into our drinking water.

Furthermore, if a developer breaks ground, uncovers this legacy sludge contamination, and walks away using standard environmental exit clauses, the City of Rockford and its taxpayers will be left holding 100% of the financial and legal liability for the cleanup.

Before a single vote is cast on this TIF expansion or any zoning map amendments in this corridor, I demand that the City of Rockford mandate a comprehensive, deep-core Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) across these historical reclamation fields. You cannot claim to build a prosperous economic future for Rockford by poisoning the water table of the families who live here.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Winnebago County Resident