

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

BUREAU OF AIR

PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF A CONSTRUCTION PERMIT

TO BIG RIVER RESOURCES - GALVA

PUBLIC HEARING

March 28, 2007

7:00 P.M.

Blackhawk College Auditorium

1501 State Highway 78

Kewanee, Illinois

DAVIS REPORTING SERVICE

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1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

2 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Good evening, ladies
3 and gentlemen. We might as well start this hearing
4 now. It's seven p.m. on March 28, 2007.

5 Good evening. My name is Charles
6 Matoesian. I'll be the Hearing Officer tonight.

7 This hearing is being held by the Illinois
8 Environmental Protection Agency Bureau of Air. Today
9 is March 28, 2007. Hearing is held at the Blackhawk
10 College Auditorium, 1501 State Highway 78 in Kewanee.

11 The purpose of this hearing is to receive
12 comments and answer questions from the public
13 concerning the proposed issuance of a construction
14 permit to Big River Resources Galva.

15 Such questions and comments will be received
16 prior to making a final decision concerning the
17 application.

18 Big River Resources Galva has submitted an
19 application to the Illinois Environmental Protection
20 Agency Division of Air Pollution Control for a permit
21 to construct an ethanol plant to be located at
22 1100 Southeast Second Street in Galva.

23 The plant will be designed to have a nominal
24 capacity of 110 million gallons per year denatured

1 ethanol. The Illinois EPA has made a preliminary
2 determination to issue a permit for the project and
3 has prepared a draft permit for review.

4 The Illinois EPA is holding a public-comment
5 period and hearing to accept comments from the public
6 on the proposed issuance of a permit for this project
7 prior to making a final decision on the application.

8 This project would not be considered a major
9 source under the federal rules for prevention of
10 significant deterioration found at 40 Code of Federal
11 Regulations 52.21.

12 This hearing is being held under the
13 Illinois EPA's procedures for permit and closure plans
14 regulations found at 35 Illinois Administrative Code
15 Section 166, Subpart A.

16 Those not wishing to make verbal comments
17 tonight may make written comments. Such written
18 comments must be postmarked by midnight April 27,
19 2007, which I believe is a Friday.

20 Again, that's 30 days after the date of the
21 hearing. And they must only be postmarked by midnight
22 April 27th, not received by the agency. Written
23 comments need not be notarized.

24 Send your comments to myself, Charles

1 Matoesian -- that's M-a-t, as in Tom, o-e-s-i-a-n,
2 Hearing Officer, at Illinois EPA regarding Big River
3 Resources permit, address of 1021 North Grand Avenue
4 East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois
5 62794-9276.

6 And that information was on the public
7 notice which was published in the paper and is
8 available at the paper at the top of the room.

9 After receiving all of the comments and
10 questions, written comments and questions from
11 concerned people, the agency will prepare a
12 responsiveness summary which will be produced as soon
13 as practical based upon the number of questions,
14 comments that are submitted.

15 This will answer those questions and respond
16 to any comments.

17 Those wishing to speak tonight, please
18 approach the podium or the microphone stand we have.
19 Please state and spell your name for the record.
20 Please speak slowly and clearly, as we have a court
21 reporter here who must take down everything for the
22 official transcript.

23 We will go through the cards that everyone
24 filled out as they came in, and in the order filled

1 out, we will let those people speak. But after that,
2 we will open the floor and anyone can make additional
3 comments or questions.

4 So just because you didn't fill out a card
5 doesn't mean you're not allowed to speak. We'll stay
6 here until as long as necessary to hear everyone's
7 comments. Okay.

8 At this point I will turn the microphone
9 over to Minesh Patel, permit engineer, who will give a
10 brief presentation, and also Mr. Robert Smet, another
11 permit engineer. He's also here to help answer any
12 questions that the public has.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. PATEL: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.
15 Welcome to this evening's hearing. My name is Minesh
16 Patel. I'm a permit engineer with Bureau of Air. I
17 will be giving you a brief description of the proposed
18 ethanol plant.

19 Big River Resources has requested a
20 construction permit for a dry mill ethanol plant in
21 Galva. The proposed plant would produce fuel ethanol
22 from corn and would have a nominal capacity of
23 producing 110 million gallons of denatured ethanol per
24 year.

1 The principal products produced at ethanol
2 plants are ethanol and distiller grains. The ethanol
3 produced at the plant would be used as motor-vehicle
4 fuel. The distiller grains are used as animal feed.

5 The proposed plant would have facilities to
6 receive and ship products such as grains, ethanol, and
7 feed by both truck and rail. Natural gas would be
8 used as the fuel to supply energy for the plant.

9 The proposed plant would be appropriate --
10 would use appropriate equipment for effective control
11 of emissions from the various operations at the
12 plant.

13 Filters would be used to control particulate
14 emissions from the receiving and handling of grain and
15 the handling of dry feed. A scrubber would be used to
16 control organic-material emissions from the
17 fermentation operation.

18 The organic material laden water from the
19 scrubber would be reused at the plant, so would not be
20 a source of wastewater.

21 Combustion control with natural gas-fired
22 thermal oxidizers would be used to control emissions
23 of organic material, carbon monoxide, and particulate
24 matter from the dryers. The dryers convert wet

1 stillage into dry feed.

2 These thermal-oxidizer systems would also be
3 used to control organic-material emissions from the
4 distillation operations, in which the water and
5 ethanol in the beer from the fermenters is separated
6 and the ethanol is purified.

7 Each oxidizer will also function as the
8 furnace for a heat-recovery steam generator or boiler,
9 which serves to supply process steam to the plant.
10 These oxidizers as well as the dryer will be equipped
11 with low-NOx burners to minimize nitrogen-oxide
12 emissions.

13 As a result of this emissions-control
14 equipment and other required equipment and control
15 measures, the proposed plant is not considered a major
16 source of emissions.

17 The permit that the Illinois EPA is
18 proposing to issue for the plant would include a
19 variety of requirements to ensure that the plant is
20 properly constructed and operated.

21 The performance of the principal control
22 systems would have to be tested after the plant is
23 built. Big River Resources would have to conduct
24 operational monitoring and record keeping to confirm

1 that the plant is properly operated and maintained on
2 a continuing basis.

3 These activities would be overseen by the
4 Illinois EPA, which will review the various reports
5 that the plant must submit and periodically conduct
6 on-site inspections of the plant.

7 We look forward to your questions and
8 comments on this proposed permit. And once again,
9 thank you for attending the hearing.

10 MR. SMET: My name is Bob Smet and I oversee
11 Bureau of Air construction-permit unit.

12 And I'm just here to answer other questions
13 that Minesh may not be able to answer, although he's
14 the principal engineer who put together the permit.

15 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, Minesh and
16 Robert.

17 We will now begin with the cards that were
18 submitted. And the first speaker I have is Mr. Robert
19 Bondi. And again, please approach the microphone and
20 state and spell your name for the record.

21 MR. BONDI: My name is Robert Bondi from
22 Galesburg, Illinois. I'm a business person in the
23 Galesburg area.

24 And the main reason I came to this meeting

1 is to comment that I am an investor currently in Big
2 River and studied the situation thoroughly along with
3 a number of other people from our part of the region
4 and had the opportunity to review the West Burlington
5 plant and was extremely impressed with the quality of
6 construction and the people that are involved with
7 this enterprise.

8 And I'm here to just say that I think it's
9 an outstanding opportunity for this area to find the
10 opportunity of having the Galva region additionally
11 involved in this kind of investment and capital
12 creation is unique to our part of the world.

13 It falls in line with the agricultural
14 direction. EPA-wise, I think you'll find -- as a
15 layman, I find it very much a complement to the area.

16 The actual aroma that you'll have as a
17 result of this plant going up is very similar to being
18 around a bakery. It's a fairly positive experience.

19 And as an investor and someone who had no
20 experience in the ethanol business or nothing more
21 than probably many of you just having a chance to read
22 about it in the papers and understand the
23 possibilities as far as clean air and its additive and
24 also the opportunity of possibly having it as

1 additionally a straightforward fuel that would
2 actually subsidize but not replace some of the oil
3 dependency, I find a great amount of pride in being an
4 investor and wanted to make that statement tonight.

5 Thank you very much.

6 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

7 The next speaker is Ben Andersen.

8 MR. ANDERSEN: No comment or question at this
9 time.

10 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Okay. You can always
11 comment or question later if you like.

12 The next speaker, then, is Raymond
13 Defenbaugh.

14 MR. DEFENBAUGH: I'm Raymond Defenbaugh,
15 president and CEO of Big River. And we are working
16 with a group of local people to put this plant in
17 Galva. And we think there's opportunity here to bring
18 jobs for the youth.

19 That's one of our goals as well as others
20 and bring economic advantages for the community,
21 preserving the communities for the investors. We
22 pride ourselves as being people of our word and
23 thinking of others, treating them as we'd like to be
24 treated.

1 And as such, we are very cognizant of the
2 rules and regulations, EPA requirements, and we intend
3 in every way to meet those or exceed whatever
4 requirements are there.

5 We intend to be good neighbors.

6 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

7 The next speaker, then, is -- I can't --
8 Rich Ruhl. I'm not sure if I'm pronouncing that
9 correctly.

10 MR. RUHL: My name is Rich Ruhl, R-i-c-h,
11 R-u-h-l. I'm the general manager of Gateway Coop.
12 Gateway Coop is a locally-owned agricultural
13 cooperative with branches in Altona, Galva, and
14 Kewanee.

15 Gateway's 40 employees are individuals from
16 our trade territory in those communities. Big River
17 Resources has made the statement that the proposed
18 plant will add 40 plus jobs to the community.

19 Along with that, the plant will add corn
20 production to the area, and that is where Gateway Coop
21 and other agricultural suppliers come in. With the
22 increased demand for corn comes the increased need for
23 the supplies and the services that Gateway provides.

24 This increase could possibly require an

1 increase in the number of employees to handle more
2 corn acres as well as the possibility of additional
3 storage facilities to house the production.

4 Additional employees will provide a positive
5 impact to the local economy. I believe that the
6 addition of the Big River Resources ethanol plant
7 would be a strong asset to the local agricultural
8 community that is served by Gateway Coop.

9 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

10 The next speaker, then, is Brian Schasel, if
11 I'm pronouncing it correctly.

12 MR. SCHASEL: I'd like to save my comments till
13 the end.

14 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Okay. That's fine.

15 The next person is Bergen Johnson.

16 And also when you approach -- everyone so
17 far has done it, but please state if you're for or
18 against issuing the permit. So far everyone's stated
19 that, but just to be clear. Thank you.

20 MR. JOHNSON: I'm Bergen Johnson. I'm an
21 employee with Big River Resources West Burlington.
22 I'm for this permit.

23 And I just wanted to say the wet cake will
24 not be stored on site for normally more than 72

1 hours. And we do put a food-grade preservative on it
2 to eliminate a nuisance odor.

3 Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you.

5 The next speaker, then, is I believe it's
6 John Lolf. I'm not sure if I'm --

7 AUDIENCE: Wolf, maybe?

8 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Wolf.

9 MR. WOLF: Save my comments.

10 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Okay. Sorry about
11 that.

12 The next is Stanley Janson.

13 MR. JANSON: I would also like to save my
14 comments for the end.

15 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Okay. Then Robert
16 Bock.

17 MR. BOCK: Name is Robert Bock, B-o-c-k.

18 And I just want some answers to some of the
19 questions that I've been reading in the paper and a
20 card that we got in the mail, stuff on that order.
21 And at the present time I can't tell you whether I'm
22 for or against the plant.

23 Number one, one of the articles which I just
24 read tonight, the water supply. In any event, I read

1 that they are going to have a pipeline coming in from
2 the Illinois River. And only thing I can do is say
3 what I've read, and I'd like to have some more answers
4 on some of this.

5 What does that do as far as our tax proposal
6 goes for the County of Galva or for the State of
7 Illinois if we have to have some extra taxes to pay
8 for that pipeline or would Big River pay for the
9 pipeline all themselves? That's one of the questions
10 I have.

11 The other question is on the air pollution,
12 with the EPA doing the inspection on that, how often
13 do they actually do the inspections to make sure that
14 there's nothing that, you know, goes by --

15 MR. PATEL: Well, the inspection, there is
16 usually once, maybe twice annually done inspection on
17 this type of facilities.

18 Now, that doesn't mean that Illinois EPA --
19 if there are complaints received on behalf of this
20 plant, an inspector would be coming and checking those
21 complaints out.

22 MR. BOCK: So in other words, if I understand you
23 right, if we do happen to have an offensive odor that
24 we believe is coming from the plant, we can contact

1 the EPA, then, and file a complaint with them?

2 MR. PATEL: Yes.

3 MR. BOCK: Would that be written or would that be
4 verbal?

5 MR. PATEL: You can call us at our local field
6 office or you can send it in, however.

7 MR. BOCK: Okay. Okay.

8 Next question I have, then, the disposal of
9 the wastewater, I don't think Galva here, if you're
10 planning on putting the wastewater through the
11 disposal plant here, is capable of handling the
12 wastewater.

13 And that plant would probably have to be
14 built larger. Would that be at the expense of the
15 township of Galva or would that be at the expense of
16 Big River?

17 MR. PATEL: I don't know whether I can make
18 comment on that or not.

19 MR. BOCK: Uh-huh.

20 MR. PATEL: We don't have that information.

21 MR. BOCK: Okay. So that will remain unanswered,
22 then, if you don't know where the costs are going to
23 lie, whether it's going to be our burden or if it's
24 going to be their burden.

1 MR. SMET: It will have to remain unanswered here
2 since this was -- but when we put together our
3 responsiveness summary, we'll make an attempt to
4 answer that question for you.

5 MR. BOCK: Okay. All right.

6 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Can everyone hear?

7 Try to speak up a little.

8 AUDIENCE: I heard no answer to the first
9 question.

10 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Which question was
11 that?

12 AUDIENCE: About the pipeline.

13 MR. PATEL: Basically it's the same thing, that
14 we don't have an answer for you here, but we'll try to
15 answer it.

16 AUDIENCE: I see. Yeah.

17 MR. BOCK: So there are some expenses here that
18 can't be answered where that's going to lie upon,
19 either on us as the taxpayers or -- that would be my
20 biggest question.

21 And inspection, how often can it be done?
22 'Cause I know some people in the area that have severe
23 lung problems and stuff on that order. And again,
24 with air pollution, that's some of the worst things

1 that can happen.

2 And that's about all I got. So I'll just
3 wait to get a response from you fellas and see what's
4 going to happen.

5 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

6 The next speaker is Rory Washburn.

7 MR. WASHBURN: I'll defer at this time too.

8 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Okay. Then I have
9 Terry Davis.

10 MR. DAVIS: I just wish to state that I was in
11 favor of the issuance of the permit.

12 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Okay. The next
13 speaker is Tina Hutchison.

14 MS. HUTCHISON: Hi. My name Tina Hutchison and I
15 am against the Big River project. I live at 818
16 Northeast Third Street in Galva, Illinois. Big River
17 will be my neighbor.

18 I am extremely concerned not only about the
19 emission, but the water runoff, the noise, the lights,
20 the increase in traffic. I am also a nurse. I work
21 with people who have breathing problems every day.

22 I also know that my property value is going
23 to decrease. I also know that if we have to be
24 responsible for the water for the plant and new sewer

1 lines, who's going to pay for it? The taxpayers.

2 We have a lot of people in our community
3 that are on fixed incomes. Our taxes are high enough
4 now as it is. The people that Big River are going to
5 employ have to have educations. They're not going to
6 bring back people into our community to work these
7 jobs.

8 They're going to come from Michigan and
9 other states that have bachelor degrees. It's not
10 going to be high-school-education people.

11 I have fish in my yard. Those emissions
12 start coming towards my yard and my fish are going to
13 die. I can guarantee it.

14 I have lived on my property for 20 years.
15 I'm ready to sell. I'm ready. And it's because of
16 Big River.

17 And as far as baking and what cakes smell
18 like, I used to be a cake baker. They might smell
19 good to all of you; they don't smell good to me. Stay
20 in a bakery for 24/7 and see what it smells like to
21 you.

22 That's all I have to say.

23 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, ma'am.

24 The next speaker is Mike Rumbold.

1 MR. RUMBOLD: Hi. I'm Mike Rumbold, M-i-k-e,
2 R-u-m-b-o-l-d. I'm for the project.

3 I represent Big River as a director on the
4 board. I also represent Rumbold & Kuhn, Incorporated,
5 grain elevator, 50-year family business, third
6 generation that has had extensive background in the
7 grain industry in this local area.

8 We own eight grain facilities in and around
9 the area. We've delivered to local markets, the same
10 markets for the past 25 years that I've been involved
11 in the grain elevator.

12 And they've been the same markets. We
13 experience lengthy lines at times. We experience
14 shut-downs where we can't even deliver our grain.

15 We also know that comparing back to 20 years
16 ago, that we had approximately 120 corn, 120 bushel
17 corn average and today we're working somewhere with a
18 number of 155 to 160 total average in this area.

19 With that being said, I support the Big
20 River project in that it will bring value to the
21 community and those local shareholders, it will keep
22 the money, return back to the local community,
23 therefore, being recycled and spent again in the local
24 community.

1 But also create jobs. And lastly, it will
2 increase the basis for local grain farmers,
3 producers. I feel very strong about how that will
4 revitalize our community.

5 With that being said, our firm supports and
6 endorses Big River Resources. Thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

8 The next speaker is Dave Weber.

9 MR. WEBER: My name's Dave Weber, W-e-b-e-r. We
10 feed cattle in Henry County and presently are
11 receiving the distillers grain from Big Rivers in
12 Burlington, approximately one load a day.

13 It has increased performance of the cattle.
14 The wet distillers is very consistent. Every day it's
15 the same. Very dependable feed.

16 It has again created jobs because of the
17 cattle being fed in the state here in this county, and
18 it gives more opportunity for the next generation
19 coming on.

20 So I am for it.

21 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you,
22 Mr. Weber.

23 The next speaker I have is David Erickson.

24 MR. ERICKSON: I'm not sure I can stoop that far.

1 My name is David Erickson. Erickson's
2 E-r-i-c-k-s-o-n. My wife and I are corn and soybean
3 producers in a family operation at Altona.

4 We have a farmland that we farm in Knox and
5 Henry Counties, and we're in favor of the permit for
6 three basic reasons.

7 I got involved in part of the initial board
8 activity, was invited to participate in the Prairie
9 Ethanol Board precursor to Big River Resources here.

10 I know from that initial feasibility study
11 that, as other speakers have indicated, there will be
12 a basis improvement for corn here locally in the area
13 of around 11 cents per bushel based on that initial
14 feasibility study, which is positive for corn
15 producers here in the area.

16 Secondly, I think that it's significant that
17 this region and locally there are a significant number
18 of investors in this project. And why I think that's
19 significant is because local investment has a way of
20 doubling its investment in the community.

21 In other words, local investors, regional
22 investors will keep their money here. They're not a
23 company that's going to come and invest and earn money
24 here locally and then take it to some other location.

1 People like my wife and I, others who have
2 spoken are going to stay here in the region and
3 reinvest the dollars that we earn, whether it be
4 through increased grain prices or through our
5 investment in the business.

6 And thirdly, I support the permit because
7 Big River Resources, when it became involved with
8 discussions with Prairie Ethanol, had become clear to
9 me and to others on the board that it was clearly a
10 business that you wanted to be a part of your
11 community, one that worked diligently to make sure
12 that its business was run not only efficiently, but in
13 the best interests of the communities where they
14 participated.

15 They're truly good neighbors and good people
16 with ideas to bring those good values here to the
17 local community. So again, I support the permit.

18 Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

20 The next speaker is Alan Corkill, I believe.

21 MR. CORKILL: It's Alan Corkill, C-o-r-k-i-l-l.

22 And my wife and I and my son are local producers,
23 predominantly in Henry and Stark County. We have a
24 grain operation.

1 And we are -- I am in support of this
2 permit. And David Erickson has said basically
3 everything that I wished to say. And he said it very
4 eloquently, and there's nothing I could really add to
5 it other than to say thank you and I support this.

6 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

7 The next speaker then is Rodney Weinzierl.

8 MR. WEINZIERL: I'd like to defer till later.

9 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Okay. Thank you.

10 Then I have James Purlee.

11 MR. PURLEE: Jim Purlee, P-u-r-l-e-e. I'm very
12 much in favor of the permit for the ethanol plant.

13 I was an early investor in the Big River
14 Resources plant in Burlington, Iowa. I saw that go
15 from an open field to -- or just raising money to a
16 very successful business and a good neighbor.

17 I know there's a house right across the road
18 from the plant that is very glad to be a neighbor of
19 the plant and found no problems with the issue.

20 We're corn producers in Knox County and
21 Warren County. We haul all of our grain to the
22 ethanol plant at Burlington, Iowa. Galva will be a
23 closer plant. We look forward to hauling corn up
24 here.

1 It's helped increase our overall farm
2 efficiency not only for us, but for many, many of our
3 neighbors. We're firmly behind this ethanol project.

4 Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

6 The next speaker is Bill Roddy.

7 MR. RODDY: I'm going to wait.

8 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Okay. Then I have
9 James Leiting.

10 MR. LEITING: I'd also like to defer.

11 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Okay. Thank you.

12 And then Kirk Siegle.

13 MR. SIEGLE: Kirk Siegle, K-i-r-k, S-i-e-g-l-e.

14 First of all, I'd like to state that I am
15 wholeheartedly in support of this project. I'm a
16 grain farmer and own a small trucking business.

17 There is approximately 17 to 20 million
18 bushels flowing into the facility's rail loader at
19 this point in time. Once the plant is up and
20 completed, it will use approximately 36 million
21 bushel.

22 Approximately 20 percent of the ethanol
23 will leave the plant by truck. Approximately 80
24 percent will leave by rail depending on market

1 conditions.

2 This will allow local trucks to be purchased
3 by producers or trucking firms in the area. It will
4 increase employment and increase wages in the area.

5 It will also increase the income of the
6 local support industry such as truck dealerships, fuel
7 suppliers, repair shops, tire dealers, etc.

8 And with that, I would wholeheartedly ask
9 you to approve this permit.

10 Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

12 Next comment is Rob Elliott.

13 MR. ELLIOTT: Rob Elliott, E-l-l-i-o-t-t.

14 My family has been in farm operation in West
15 Central Illinois for well in excess of a hundred
16 years. And I would speak in support of the permit.

17 Certainly this opportunity is an excellent
18 economic driver for the local community and investment
19 opportunity for folks here locally.

20 One of the things I did, I scribbled down
21 just a little bit. If you could allow me to just for
22 a second do a little bit of back-of-the-napkin math.

23 It's been mentioned that it would raise the
24 local corn basis by, you know, approximately a dime.

1 So a thousand acre grower with 107 bushel to the acre
2 corn, tack that dime onto those bushels and that's
3 17,000 additional dollars that each grower in this
4 market could take advantage of.

5 This particular plant was also stated will
6 use somewhere in the neighborhood of 35 or 36 million
7 bushels. Again, you take that times a dime, that's
8 \$3.6 million of additional revenue for bushels that
9 are going to go into that plant.

10 But let's say then again that, very
11 conservatively, that there's another 5 bushels on top
12 of that in this local area that will also be impacted
13 by that basis increase. You come with about 21
14 million additional dollars.

15 And if you use the rule of 7, that says
16 those local folks that have garnered that additional
17 income spend it at the grocery store, at the car
18 dealer, and the hardware store and the like, that's in
19 excess of \$150 million that's an infusion of new
20 dollars into this community.

21 And at a time when the state of Illinois is
22 certainly hurting for our rural economic communities
23 to thrive, that's certainly a driver that I think Big
24 River Resources could be a significant partner in

1 helping rural areas like Galva here.

2 So thank you for the opportunity.

3 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

4 The next speaker I have is Dr. John Dooley.

5 DR. DOOLEY: John Dooley, D-o-o-l-e-y. I'm for
6 the project. I am a physician up in the Quad City
7 area and serve on the board of Big River and have so
8 for the past several years.

9 I can certainly understand the concern of
10 our neighbors about safety issues, respiratory
11 problems, noise, and a host of other things that may
12 be going through your mind.

13 But over the years of being around the plant
14 and there for board meetings on a monthly basis and
15 visiting with the people that work there and looking
16 over our safety reports in detail every month and just
17 observing the people, they're healthy. They do well.

18 They aren't sick. They don't have
19 respiratory problems. I can remember when we had a
20 neighbor that was concerned about the noise, and the
21 board labored over a series of months to rectify that
22 situation down in Burlington to that neighbor's
23 satisfaction.

24 There's a compulsion among the board members

1 to make sure that safety is at the highest level that
2 we can keep it. And there's a deep concern for our
3 neighbors. That's going to continue.

4 And so I'd urge you to approve this air
5 permit. We'll be good neighbors.

6 Thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

8 Those were all the cards the people had
9 filled out. So I'll open the floor to anyone who
10 wishes to make further comments or questions.

11 Please raise your hand. And when I call
12 you, you could approach the podium. So I see one
13 hand.

14 And again, state and spell your name for the
15 record.

16 MR. GILLENWATER: My name is Don Gillenwater,
17 G-i-l-l-e-n-w-a-t-e-r. I'm with Galesburg Electric in
18 Galesburg, Illinois. We are an electrical industrial
19 supplier. Have been located there for 54 years.

20 It's a family-owned business operated by the
21 Johnsons. And we have been a very, very strong
22 supporter of Big River Resources.

23 We are currently their electrical and
24 industrial supplier in Burlington. And I can only

1 tell you that if we had another 10, 20 customers like
2 Big River, we would be very, very satisfied.

3 One of the things that we were very, very
4 impressed with when we started going over there --
5 we'd been servicing the account for about two years
6 now. We were very impressed by the construction, the
7 workmanship of both the facilities and also the people
8 that maintain the facilities.

9 And in regards to safety, as some of the
10 other people have spoken, anytime that there has been
11 any type of code changes or workman-safety issues that
12 have come up, Big River has been one of the very first
13 in the area to take and make sure that they implement
14 the equipment needed for their employees or make sure
15 that they're very, very aware of the new code
16 requirements.

17 I would say that our experience with Big
18 River is they're very honest, straightforward, no
19 frills. If they tell you something, it's no smoke, no
20 mirrors, and they do what they're going to tell you.

21 And any community would be very, very proud
22 to have them in there both as a business for the
23 economic impact that they will bring and also as good
24 neighbors.

1 Thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

3 Do we have anyone else like to make a
4 comment?

5 Okay. Ma'am, in the back.

6 MS. STEPHAN: My name is Elin Stephan. Elin is
7 E-l-i-n. My last name, Stephan, is S-t-e-p-h-a-n.

8 I didn't really come here to comment, but
9 after hearing some of the comments that have been
10 made, I had to.

11 And I am commenting as a concerned neighbor
12 because this ethanol plant is going to be next door to
13 me.

14 And I know there's been a lot of people in
15 favor of this that have spoken tonight, but I feel all
16 these are investors that are going to benefit
17 financially from Big River ethanol plant.

18 But us in the neighborhood are not going to
19 benefit 'cause we feel very strongly that the value of
20 our real estate is going down.

21 If any of these investors that think it is
22 wonderful would like to buy my house for a good price
23 so I can afford to buy another one somewhere, I would
24 love to sell it to them.

1 And I am also an employee of the Galva
2 school district, which will receive no taxes off of
3 this ethanol plant. And so it's not benefitting the
4 school district.

5 And I'm concerned about the noise and the
6 smell and the neighborhood. And if it was being built
7 out in the country farther, it would be fine. I
8 wouldn't have a problem with it if it benefited
9 farmers. That's good.

10 But I don't like it built in my
11 neighborhood. Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, ma'am.

13 Anyone else who'd like to make a comment?

14 MR. RODDY: Hello. I'm Bill Roddy with ICM.
15 That's B-i-l-l, R-o-d-d-y.

16 I'm in favor of the plant. ICM is a
17 technology provider and an engineering company. Our
18 company's responsible for plants that are producing
19 about 25 percent of the fuel ethanol in the United
20 States today.

21 About 40 percent of the operating plants in
22 the U.S. are technology. This permit, which is going
23 to be written and drafted at 110 million gallons per
24 year, will qualify the source as a minor source of air

1 contaminants.

2 And I think as a minor source of air
3 contaminants, if you meet these standards, then those
4 standards are designed to be protective of public
5 health, safety, and environment.

6 The control technology that we're going to
7 use that we proposed is a fermentation scrubber for
8 the fermentation to handle those volatiles coming off
9 during fermentation.

10 There are going to be two thermal oxidizers
11 to control emissions coming off the grain-drying
12 process, the distillers-grain process.

13 The bulk material handling, that's the corn
14 as it comes in as it's unloaded and put into storage,
15 then millet and then will be -- the dust emissions
16 will be controlled by baghouses.

17 The DDGs, the distiller's grains, as they're
18 transported, the emissions from them will be
19 controlled by baghouse. And DDG loadout will be
20 controlled by baghouses.

21 So all the solid materials will be
22 controlled by dust collectors. Truck and rail loadout
23 will have layers to control those emissions. The
24 displaced emissions will then fill the rail car or the

1 truck.

2 Those emissions will be flared off. And we
3 also have a biomethanator. There was some discussion
4 about processed water. The processed water will go
5 back into the biomethanator, will be cleaned up, and
6 then it will be recycled back into the cook.

7 So any water that comes into contact with
8 the process will be cleaned up in biomethanoator or
9 actually go up the DDG dry stack.

10 Product storage will be by API tanks.
11 That's large storage tanks with secondary containment
12 to protect the groundwater, the surface water in case
13 a tank does collapse. One of ours has not yet.

14 And then they'll have internal flowing roofs
15 with double-wiper seals to minimize emissions of
16 volatile organics in the atmosphere.

17 The combustion technology we use in the
18 thermal oxidizers will be ultralow NOx and it will
19 have low CO. It will have, we proposed, a continuous
20 emission-monitoring system for the thermal-oxidizer
21 stack to continually monitor the NOx emissions.

22 There was some discussion about noise, and
23 noise off property will be less than 80 db. And I can
24 tell you that the problems that it had in West

1 Burlington with noise, it's one of the few plants that
2 we've had that have had noise issues.

3 We've done a full survey and that plant as
4 well as this one will meet the off-site standards for
5 noise, 80 decibels.

6 There was a discussion about lights, bright
7 lights. The lights used will be shoebox-type lights
8 that shines down, not outwards.

9 And any discharge of water will be not --
10 any water discharged from the cooling towers will be
11 noncontact water. In other words, it doesn't come
12 into contact with the process.

13 It's groundwater, well water that is
14 recycled and cycled through the cooling towers to
15 where the minimum concentration builds up. So it's
16 noncontact water. It's literally just high-mineral
17 water that's been released.

18 As far as odor goes, I can tell you that in
19 the past we've learned about odor and how to control
20 odor. We use what we call best technology to control
21 it, and that's the thermal oxidizers and the
22 fermentation scrubber. And those seemed to do a very
23 fine job.

24 Thank you.

1 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

2 And the next speaker.

3 MR. WASHBURN: Good evening. My name is Rory
4 Washburn, R-o-r-y, W-a-s-h-b-u-r-n. I'm the executive
5 director of Tri City Building Trades Council out of
6 Rock Island, Illinois.

7 We're neutral on the project at this point.
8 However, I would like to applaud the investors for
9 their initiative in trying to wean our country off our
10 independence on foreign oil.

11 We just happen to disagree with the fact
12 that don't think that needs to be done with importing
13 construction workers to complete the project.

14 There are hundreds of local construction
15 workers that live in this area, thousands within the
16 region who are more than capable of performing
17 erecting facilities like this.

18 And we just hope that the investors can see
19 it in the best interests of the local economy and the
20 local workers to utilize them in this process.

21 The question I have, we understand the size
22 of this plant and I understand that there's recently
23 been a federal suit where the EPA has been named in
24 that for a plant identical to this one.

1 Will that do anything or affect the
2 timeliness of the issuance of this permit?

3 MR. PATEL: I don't know -- which one are you
4 talking about?

5 MR. WASHBURN: The Hennepin plant. I believe it's
6 identical to the proposed plant here and one just a
7 little bit north of here.

8 Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

10 Ma'am, you were next.

11 MS. ANDERSON: My name is Katie Anderson. And I'm
12 neutral at this time. I'm here more as a reporter for
13 my class. I'm a Galva High School
14 environmental-science teacher.

15 So I encourage my students to care and
16 protect the environment, care for and protect the
17 environment. So I'm here tonight to report back to
18 them and hopefully assure them that this ethanol plant
19 will not produce any air, water, and noise pollution.

20 And I'm here asking the IEPA that if they're
21 going to do all they can to protect our health and our
22 welfare and when the -- when odor was brought up, is
23 that something to be, like, odor when you drive into
24 Peoria, that kind of smell, or what's that going to be

1 like?

2 MR. PATEL: Well, I think the Peoria plant is a
3 wet mill versus this is going to be a dry-mill plant.
4 Other than that, I don't know what else I can
5 differentiate with.

6 MS. ANDERSON: Okay. And also you mentioned
7 earlier that if there were any kind of offenses that
8 people took towards this plant, they could contact the
9 IEPA and they would get back to us.

10 How quickly does that take? If someone
11 writes a letter, do we wait six weeks? Six months?
12 Six days? How long do we have to wait for that to
13 rectify?

14 MR. PATEL: Depending on the comments or the
15 complaints that they have, it might be there the very
16 next day or same day.

17 MS. ANDERSON: Okay. Thank you very much.

18 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Ma'am, could you spell
19 your name for the record, please.

20 MS. ANDERSON: K-a-t-i-e, R-u-s-h-i-n-g, hyphen,
21 A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n.

22 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you.

23 The next speaker? You, sir.

24 MR. CARNEY: My name is Jim Carney, C-a-r-n-e-y.

1 I live just about a mile down wind from your proposed
2 plant. So I am concerned about the odor.

3 And I'm not interested in living next to a
4 bakery. I moved out there to be in the fresh air. So
5 I hope that I'm not going to be smelling the bakery
6 shop day after day.

7 My main concern, however, is with water. I
8 have a 420 foot well. Are you going to affect my
9 water supply?

10 And I also think there's some kind of an
11 ethical problem here. I don't want to discuss it at
12 great lengths, but the idea of taking corn, a food
13 product, and converting it into alcohol to burn in my
14 big Lincoln Town Car, I think there's a question
15 there.

16 We're actually pricing the poor Mexicans out
17 of the market for corn. There's some other things for
18 you to think about, folks.

19 MR. SMET: Again, on the water issue, we're going
20 to have to get back with you on that.

21 The reason I say that is because we get an
22 application for an air permit and it has to address
23 all the different aspects of the air regs, the
24 regulations and whether it addresses nitrogen oxides,

1 carbon monoxides, sulfur dioxide, etc.

2 So it addresses all the different aspects
3 that are applicable to air-pollution regulation. So
4 those that deal with water, water supply, that's
5 outside our boundary in the Bureau of Air.

6 So we meet through agency, for example, but
7 we represent the Bureau of Air portion of that
8 agency. And so water issues, we have to wait and talk
9 to our water people to get the answer to that.

10 So we're not dodging the issue. It's just
11 that we have enough on our plate just dealing with the
12 air regulations as it is.

13 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you.

14 Next speaker? Anyone?

15 Okay, sir.

16 MR. MATCHETT: My name is Mark Matchett.

17 I want to go on record as saying I'm
18 currently opposed to the plant due to living, I
19 believe, if my calculations are right, about 6- to
20 800 feet away from the building that they propose or
21 the buildings they propose.

22 Right now I'm concerned about the air and
23 the water and noise, so.

24 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Could you spell your

1 name.

2 MR. MATCHETT: Yeah. It's Mark, M-a-r-k,
3 Matchett, M-a-t-c-h-e-t-t.

4 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you.

5 MR. MATCHETT: Thank you.

6 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

7 Do we have another comment?

8 MR. WHITE: My name is Greg White from Galva,
9 G-r-e-g, W-h-i-t-e.

10 And I also didn't have any intention of
11 really speaking, but I believe I need to ask some
12 questions 'cause obviously there's a concern and there
13 needs to be a permit issued for some reason.

14 If we listen to what's been said, it sounds
15 as though there's no real reason to have a permit.
16 But clearly here for a reason.

17 What are some of the potential problems with
18 air quality that might be coming off of this that you
19 are going to be regulating that we should be concerned
20 about?

21 MR. SMET: That's a broad question.

22 MR. WHITE: Narrow it down however you want.

23 MR. SMET: The pollutants that are under
24 question here are nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide,

1 sulfur dioxide. There are regulations for the
2 emissions of those from pretty much any plant in
3 Illinois.

4 And so there are established regulations on
5 how much you can emit in terms of, say, pounds per
6 million BTU for a boiler. So those have been
7 established in order to be protective of air quality
8 in the state of Illinois. So you have those types of
9 rules that apply to this plant.

10 Likewise, because of the amount of tons of
11 emission being generated for the different
12 pollutants, just due to size, the more you emit, the
13 more stringent the rules become.

14 And in their case they're getting a
15 synthetic, what's known as synthetic minor permit.
16 The emissions want to be held below a certain
17 threshold.

18 And so in order to do so, we tell them that
19 they have to maintain certain records, perform record
20 keeping, reporting, etc., to verify that those
21 emissions are below a certain threshold.

22 If those numbers go above that threshold,
23 then they get deemed to be a major source and a whole
24 lot more regulations come into effect. So there's the

1 air-quality issues.

2 Then there's the source, major-source issues
3 that they have to stay below and all the various
4 requirements to report and have records, etc., to stay
5 below that.

6 So it's -- the bottom line is trying to
7 maintain the air quality.

8 And the permit is there to ensure that the
9 air quality is maintained in an attainment status,
10 that it doesn't just get blown over these thresholds
11 and interfere with the good air quality that's
12 currently here.

13 MR. WHITE: Are these emissions produced at a
14 constant rate throughout the day or are there times
15 when there may be more or less and when are they
16 required to do testing?

17 MR. SMET: The emissions will vary throughout the
18 day. But if they're pretty much maxing out every day
19 24/7, which I can't presume to be the case, but it
20 might be up there where it just waivers a bit. So it
21 might vary.

22 They are required as a condition of the
23 permit to perform stack testing. I don't know the
24 specifics, but there would be different units at the

1 source that would be required to have a test performed
2 to ensure that the limits imposed in the permit are
3 met.

4 MR. WHITE: Are there specific requirements for
5 odor? I mean, are there certain numbers or ranges or
6 something which is actually measured or is it a
7 subjective thing, some people might like to smell,
8 others might not?

9 MR. SMET: It's a subjective thing. The bottom
10 line is, if you experience odors downwind, you have
11 the right to call us up and say, Hey, I have a
12 complaint about this.

13 There's some places where people smell an
14 odor and it doesn't bother them, they're okay with it.
15 Other places, obviously, you know, they'll be right on
16 the phone about it.

17 And I'm also assuming that some of these
18 things actually wouldn't have an odor. So it might be
19 in the air and you wouldn't know it anyway. It isn't
20 dependent upon the odor.

21 MR. WHITE: True. That's true.

22 Okay. I don't know if I'm for this or
23 against this either at this point. You know.
24 Obviously it's a big economic boom to the area. It's

1 good for a lot of farmers.

2 Hopefully produces some good jobs for a lot
3 of people. But I also live pretty close to this
4 thing, and I am concerned about air quality, odor for
5 myself and the rest of my family.

6 So thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

8 Next person?

9 MR. LEITING: My name is Jim Leiting,
10 L-e-i-t-i-n-g, and I am the general manager of Big
11 River Resources.

12 And what I wanted to do tonight is thank
13 everyone for coming and bringing their comments. I
14 want to reiterate -- and it's been over and over
15 again -- about the economic impact.

16 And I would share that our crew are local
17 people, and they're local people that lost their jobs
18 in the BNSF yards when the local motor shops got taken
19 away.

20 And there are maintenance crews made up of
21 that. The local restaurant loves it when those six
22 big guys come down and eat lunch during the day or the
23 supplier comes in and buys their lunch.

24 And those are the impacts that people need

1 to see. And you don't understand until you come and
2 you see it in a small business or a small community.
3 Those dollars turn within the community I've heard
4 seven times. I've heard one and a half times.

5 Our payroll is \$2 million going into the
6 community and those people own homes, they pay taxes.
7 We pay taxes.

8 We do bring viability to a community and
9 would do it in a very major way. So there are local
10 jobs. There is training. And not all people have
11 four-year degrees, very few at our plant.

12 There are some jobs that are technical in
13 nature. Some of those are trained local people. Some
14 of those are people that are in brought in, that is
15 true. But people like to sell houses and build houses
16 too.

17 And the carpenter may be happy if he gets to
18 build a house. We are a good neighbor, you've heard.
19 We have gone over some hurdles in West Burlington. We
20 intend to be a good neighbor and we do live by our
21 word.

22 I want to thank the Illinois EPA and
23 everyone who spoke tonight. And we are open and we
24 are cognizant of those issues.

1 So thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

3 The next comment? Is there anyone?

4 MR. WOLF: I'm John Wolf, J-o-h-n, W-o-l-f.

5 I'm for the plant. I would just like to say
6 that about 90 percent of the jobs are from the local
7 community.

8 Thank you. That's all I have to say.

9 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

10 Next speaker?

11 MR. HULDMAN: My name is Chad Huldman,
12 H-u-l-d-m-a-n. I'm neutral for the permit.

13 I hear a lot of talk about the economic
14 impact in the community, a lot for the farmers for the
15 50 or so jobs that they create for the area.

16 My concern is for the local worker,
17 good union craftsmen that would love to build this
18 plant. And I encourage the vendors and people in
19 charge of building this plant to use local labor and
20 that money will also turn into the community.

21 Thank you.

22 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

23 MR. JANSON: My name is Stan Janson, J-a-n-s-o-n.
24 I am the current plant manager at Big River Resources

1 in West Burlington. I want to state that I am for the
2 project.

3 I've been in the ethanol industry for about
4 18 years, worked at a variety of different ethanol
5 plants.

6 I won't reiterate what Bill had said about
7 the engineering of the ICM design and that they can
8 build plants, but I can assure you that they have a
9 lot of intrinsic safeguards and things of that sort
10 that allows us to meet these requirements.

11 And I can assure you, you have my word that
12 Big River will be a good neighbor. Thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

14 Any other comments?

15 MR. SCHASEL: My name is Brian Schasel,
16 S-c-h-a-s-e-l. I'm the current technical manager with
17 Big River Resources. My primary responsibility is for
18 environmental compliance as well as the health and
19 safety of our work force.

20 I guess first off I'd like to say that, like
21 Mr. Janson, I have worked for about 18 years or so at
22 various ethanol plants. So I have seen some of the
23 older technologies.

24 The plants have come a very long way over

1 the past 18 years or so, particularly in the field of
2 environmental compliance. I am proud to be affiliated
3 with the ICM-design plants due to their exemplary
4 record in the environmental-compliance arena.

5 Again, as I said, one of my main functions
6 is maintaining that compliance. I work quite closely
7 with IDNR and I look forward to working with Illinois
8 EPA in ensuring that we maintain compliance and remain
9 a good neighbor within your community.

10 Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, sir.

12 Next person? Anyone?

13 Okay. Please state your name again.

14 MS. ANDERSON: Katie Rushing-Anderson.

15 Okay. Now I'm here as a taxpayer and
16 listening, I have a question. I don't know that you
17 will be able to answer this not. Maybe it's a
18 question for Big River.

19 But since Galva is not the only site of an
20 ethanol plant or proposed ethanol plant, we talked
21 about one in Altona, so my question is, is that going
22 to be too much competition to have that many so close
23 and would there be a chance that the one in Galva
24 could close and then we as taxpayers pay for this and

1 then we have a plant that's closed and now an
2 eyesore?

3 Just a question.

4 MR. SMET: I am going to defer that question
5 to --

6 MR. WEINZIERL: Rodney Weinzierl,
7 W-e-i-n-z-i-e-r-l.

8 To address the question, I'm with the
9 Illinois Corn Growers and we have modeled a lot of the
10 proposed plants all at once.

11 And we think that the plants that have been
12 proposed up in this area will not be competitive with
13 each other. We think over time there might be some
14 areas of the state if we keep building plants.

15 But right now we could add another 20 plants
16 and the state of Illinois would produce plenty of corn
17 for all those plants.

18 So this particular area these plants would
19 not be competitive as they're proposed. I know
20 there's another one being proposed up in Princeton as
21 well.

22 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you.

23 Anyone else?

24 Ma'am.

1 MS. BULEY: My name is Virginia Buley, B-u-l-e-y.

2 And my concern is also as a neighbor.

3 I will be within a block of it for the
4 possible smells and noise, especially, too. That's --

5 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, ma'am.

6 Next person is?

7 MS. HUTICHSON: Tina Hutchison, T-i-n-a,
8 H-u-t-c-h-i-s-o-n.

9 I just have a couple more concerns that
10 don't really involve you guys at all. But I do have a
11 concern in regards to fire.

12 We have a volunteer fire department in
13 Galva. And I have read that ethanol fires are not put
14 out by water. It is put out by foam, which, I don't
15 know a lot about the Galva Fire Department situation,
16 whether they would even have enough foam to put out an
17 ethanol-plant fire.

18 If it were to catch on fire, I know with
19 explosion that large, probably at least 10 city blocks
20 out all over the directions are going to be gone.
21 Something everybody needs to think about.

22 Another problem is our ambulance service.
23 We don't have an ambulance service. Somebody in this
24 plant gets hurt, where are they going to come?

1 Probably my office. That's another concern. We have
2 three employees.

3 Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you, ma'am.

5 Next speaker. Is there anyone I'm missing?

6 All right, then.

7 I want to thank you all for coming on behalf
8 of myself and Bureau of Air of the Illinois
9 Environmental Protection Agency, I thank you all and I
10 close this hearing.

11 (The hearing concluded
12 at 8:10 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, JAMI C. TEPKER, Certified Shorthand Reporter, do certify that the foregoing is a correct transcription from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

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