

Award: Golden Bedpan (disservice)
Recipient: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IL EPA)
Presenter: Adani Sanchez

Good Evening! I am Adani Sanchez, and I work as an enrollment counselor for CCHCC on location at Frances Nelson. I'm here to present an award that's a little different from the others.

Everyone says that the Golden Bedpan is the worst award, but I disagree. Because of recipients like this one, we still have our jobs! This year's award winner has gone out of its way time and time again to make sure that facts are distorted, residents marginalized, and corporate interests protected.

Every year, the Health Care Consumers Board of Directors awards the Golden Bedpan to the individual, or group of individuals, corporation, or political body that has distinguished itself, above all others, by its attack on the health and welfare of the people of its community. This year's winner is the Illinois EPA. As a 2 time recipient of this award IEPA knows exactly what it takes to win but they have definitely outdone themselves this year. They outclassed many other candidates who lacked the same determination to undermine the well-being of their served populations and their mission. Maybe this time IEPA will get the message and learn its lesson-- after all third time's a charm. Fingers crossed!!

In the name of duty, the IEPA nobly ignored the public outcry from 5th and Hill residents when Ameren refused to clean up its off-site toxic contamination. While Ameren *has* cleaned up its own property (kind of), it has consistently refused to clean up the rest of its toxic contamination – the contamination that is on residential properties in the neighborhood. You know, the properties where people actually *live*. And IEPA's response? They are okay with it. The IEPA respects Ameren's decision. They just don't respect the health and the environment of the 5th & Hill neighborhood.

So much for the IEPA's mission of safeguarding the environment and protecting human health and welfare. Way to go, IEPA!

But if you think the IEPA *only* neglects the health and environment of low-income minority communities in order to protect corporate interests, then think again! They don't care about the rest of you either!

The IEPA has decided that the Mahomet Aquifer – the water source for all of us, and over 750,000 people in Central Illinois – is not worth protecting. But it is worth endangering, as long as a corporation (the Clinton Landfill) can make a huge profit!

The IEPA has boldly agreed to welcome PCBs and MGP waste – that is, Manufactured Gas Plant waste, like the toxic waste from Ameren's 5th & Hill property – to the Clinton Landfill, which sits immediately above the Mahomet Aquifer. The IEPA has totally

disregarded concerns from the Mahomet Aquifer protection groups – concerns like 3 layers of thick plastic *might not* be enough to protect the Mahomet Aquifer from toxic contamination by known carcinogens.

The IEPA has made it clear that just because they have the authority to help the environment doesn't mean they'll get to it when we need it. They say that they "[u]tilize creative means to address the priority needs for clean and safe water in Illinois." They're so creative that they just decided to turn the other cheek. We see the glass half empty and they see it half clean. (INSERT SLIDE #1)

But there is something you can do! Protect the Mahomet Aquifer from toxic contamination -- and from the IEPA -- by signing the petition on your table to have the US EPA designate the Aquifer as a Sole Source Aquifer, to bring greater protection and oversight to our precious water source. Unfortunately we don't have a representative here to receive the award but don't worry they'll be hearing from us.

Thank You.