

Hamman Farm pays fine in landscape waste dispute

BY STEVE LORD

slord@stmedianetwork.com

YORKVILLE — Hamman Farms, the property at the center of this city's long-standing landfill dispute, has agreed to pay a \$7,500 fine in a settlement with the state.

The settlement comes in a case filed in 2007 by the Illinois Attorney General's office that claimed Hamman Farms

LLC, which is licensed by the state for dumping of landscape waste only, violated the Illinois Environmental Protection Act.

The company failed to properly cover material applied to the farmland, and also had other things dumped on the property besides landscape waste, the state claimed.

Both sides signed a consent order March 10 in 16th Circuit

Court in Kendall County spelling out the fine.

As part of the order, the company also agreed to more and better inspections of landscape waste loads coming in that include routine inspections, random inspections and documentation of inspection results.

The order also says the company must "sample and analyze soil on the fields" by Sept. 30. That requirement comes because of concern about runoff from Hamman Farms into Hollenback Creek.

Hamman Farms denies any of the violations alleged by the state, but does "agree to settle and compromise disputed claims," according to the order.

"The order does not contain any admission of liability," said George Mueller, the Ottawa-based attorney representing Hamman Farms. "This is not a finding of a violation."

Hamman Farms contains about 2,300 acres along Route 71 just south of Yorkville and is approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for applying landscape waste at the rate of 80 tons an acre. That state license is up for renewal this year.

The attorney general's office, acting on a complaint by the IEPA, filed a lawsuit in 2007 against Hamman, saying that at least since Sept. 21, 2007, the landscape waste applied at the farms "has been riddled with other wastes, including but not limited to plastic, metal, paper and miscellaneous non-biodegradable things."

Earlier in 2007, Hamman Farms applied to the city of Yorkville to license the property as a solid-waste landfill. The city eventually turned down the application.

Hamman Farms owner Don Hamman is fighting the rejection, and the case now is in the 2nd District Appellate Court.

Yorkville Mayor Valerie Burd said Friday the \$7,500 fine agreed to is like a slap on the wrist.

"It seems to me pathetic," she said. "Look how much he's cost (the city), over \$1 million."

That cost has been incurred by the city in defending its ruling through the various court stages.

CONCRETE

Driveways
Patios
Walks
Additions

Since 1974

Bill Thill Builders

Custom Homes & Concrete

Free Estimates

Fully Insured

630-264-8078 Office

Share the power of a wish®

DONATE YOUR CAR

- Free Vehicle Pickup ANYWHERE
- We accept ALL vehicles
- running or not
- We also accept Boats and RVs
- Tax deductible

MAKE-A-WISH®
ILLINOIS CHAPTER

WheelsForWishes.org
1-877-415-WISH (9474)



Long periods of draught
are always followed by rain.

BEERY

American
Standard
HEATING & AIR
CONDITIONING

HEATING & COOLING INC.
PLUMBING ~ HVAC ~ ELECTRICAL WWW.4HEATCOOL.COM

IL. PL. License # 055-027858 (630)585-6444

D & S TOURS

Christmas in Branson • December 5-9, 2011

Andy Williams, Hughes, Six, Gilley & Pierce Arrow and more
Grand Victoria Hotel - All Meals - Motor Coach
\$795 Per Person • \$995 Single • Call for details

Tour of Lincoln Legacy in Springfield, IL • June 28 & 29, 2011

Visit state capital, New Salem Presidential Museum & much more
Comfort Inn Suites - Ryans Restaurant
\$149 Per Person • Call for more details

Pick Up Aurora-Yorkville-Joliet-Oswego

Don & Sandra Watson, Owners

www.dsbustours.com • Toll Free 877-904-8687