11-01-90

TO: Garth Fort
Diane Bartolanzo
Max McCombs

The Sauget landfill ... the saga continues

Pauline Jelenick of AP just called. She has written a lengthy corrective memo explaining point by point the things the original story said and how they were wrong. In sum: The pending decree is for a study of pollution at the site and potential cleanup methods rather than actual cleanup, with carting off to another landfill only one of the possible methods. Study not completed, but to be conducted under pending decree.

This memo will be moved on the wire in some form tomorrow, she said. Its length and presence may, in fact, cause further attention by some media. It also may be printed by any papers we're not aware of that used the original story.

The delay in AP action was due to the Bellville reporter "standing by" his story, which required AP to, essentially, re-report it by calling IEPA and, eventually, us. The reporter evidently did allow that the speech contained references to "Site R," "Site A" etc. which was somewhat confusing.

Special to Garth: The technology is advancing. Newspapers now have an "electronic carbon" technique that allows them to selectively transmit stories to AP, computer-to-computer, if the newspaper deems them interesting to a wider audience. AP can use these stories, edit or rewrite them, or reject them as it chooses. But the volume available for potential AP use is dramatically higher with this faster, easier submission system.

Loren Wassell

DSW 136774

USA TODAY
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NOV 1 1990

ILLINOIS

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