

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission



One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702-1271
217/785-8686

November 30, 2012

Mr. Jerald Bartels, Village President
Village of East Dundee
120 Barrington Avenue
East Dundee, IL 60118

RE: Insurance Auto Auction / Trout Park Nature Preserve Class III – Special Resource
Groundwater

Dear Mr. Bartels:

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) is concerned about the proposed location for Insurance Auto Auction, Inc. (IAA) in the Village of East Dundee. The INPC is charged under the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act [525 ILCS 30/] with the protection of the State's highest quality natural areas. Under the Illinois Groundwater Protection Act [415 ILCS 55/] those high quality natural areas which have been dedicated as Illinois Nature Preserves can be afforded additional protection to their groundwater contribution areas through a request for Class III: Special Resource Groundwater delineation pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 620.230(b). The INPC has successfully received Class III status for Trout Park Nature Preserve, owned by the City of Elgin. After considerable legal and technical review by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), the groundwater contribution area for Trout Park Nature Preserve was thereby acknowledged by the Illinois Pollution Control Board procedures as being worthy of protection.

Trout Park Nature Preserve has been determined to be highly vulnerable to groundwater contamination due to the presence of a rare wetland community known as a forested fen. Only 14.5 acres of forested fen survive in Illinois; 9.5 acres of which are within Trout Park Nature Preserve. Forested fens are specialized natural communities adapted to the presence of cool, mineral-rich groundwater discharge. Groundwater springs and seeps are prominent features of the site and create habitat for a rich and unique assemblage of plants and animals. The potential for groundwater contamination has been categorized as high due to the permeability of the surficial geologic materials and the presence of development adjacent to and upgradient of the Nature Preserve.

Mayor Jerald Bartels

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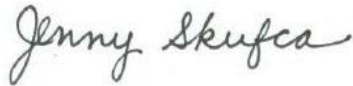
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Although the INPC does not consider this to be an appropriate location for IAA, we support the recommendations made by IEPA to prevent groundwater and surface water contamination, including engineering solutions to inhibit pollution, a secondary collection system utilizing best management practices, the installation of no less than three groundwater monitoring wells within the shallow hydrologic unit, and a robust groundwater sampling program. Illinois Nature Preserves make up less than .15% of the State, those sites highly vulnerable to groundwater contamination being even less; therefore the INPC does not believe that these recommendations are unduly burdensome.

The INPC requests that the Village of East Dundee consider the hydrologic vulnerability of Trout Park Nature Preserve when deliberating on whether to compel IAA to be fully compliant with any and all protection measures toward prevention of groundwater contamination.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jenny Skufca".

Jenny Skufca

Natural Areas Defense Specialist

cc: Sean R. Stegall – City of Elgin
Janet L. Agnoletti – Barrington Area Council of Governments
Robert G. Abboud – Village of Barrington Hills
David Kircher – Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Richard P. Cobb, Bill Buscher – IEPA
Randy Locke, Jim Miner – Illinois State Geological Survey
Steven Byers, Randy Heidorn – INPC