

FOX VALLEY **COUNTY BOARDS & EXECUTIVES**

The Fox Valley County Boards and Executives/Administrators of Outagamie, Winnebago and Calumet counties, are in agreement on the issue of vitrification to handle the PCBs dredged from the Fox River. All three county Boards have passed resolutions asking the DNR to reconsider the use of vitrification over landfilling PCB laden materials. The finality of this treatment is far superior to landfilling of the PCBs because it destroys the PCB compounds and leaves an inert, environmentally safe mineral material which can then be marketed and used as a road building component. The cost of the vitrification process may be slightly more than the landfilling of the PCBs but it is a safe and final solution to the removal of PCBs from our environment.

The three county boards have gone on record of strongly urging the DNR and the State Legislature to embrace the vitrification technology and dispose the PCB rich dredgings of the Fox River in a manner which will assure that the PCBs are forever removed from our environment. It takes 600 to 800 years for the PCB compounds to break down into harmless materials. The liners for the most modern landfills are only guaranteed for 125 years. Therefore, if landfilled, we are posing a huge problem for generations to come who will be forced to deal with the PCBs when the landfill liners deteriorate.

The PCB rich dredgings were first slated to be landfilled in Winnebago County, in the Town of Vinland. Local opposition led to the abandonment of that original plan. The current plan is to landfill these PCB rich dredgings in a landfill owned by Onyx Waste Services in the Town of Chilton in Calumet County.

We are pleased that all three county boards adopted resolutions favoring vitrification over landfilling of PCBs. This action shows an understanding of the big picture and a concern for the long term impact of proper removal of PCBs from our environment. We are also very pleased that Representative Carol Owens will be reintroducing legislation which will prohibit the dumping of PCBs into landfills and we urge support for her pending bill. Using the Vitrification process is the right thing to do and this is the right time to do it.