

GREAT RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER

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News Release

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Safe Handling of Waste - Managed Environmentally (“ShowMe”)

Suit filed against DNR

Great Rivers is public interest environmental law center

St. Louis, Mo – October 24, 2003 Safe Handling of Waste - Managed Environmentally (“ShowMe”), a nonprofit citizens organization, filed suit on October 15, 2003, to vacate a Department of Natural Resources’ (“DNR”) permit issued to IESI Corporation (“IESI”) to operate the Timber Ridge landfill in Washington County, Missouri. ShowMe alleges that DNR violated Missouri’s Solid Waste Management Law by failing to determine whether IESI is an habitual violator of the environmental laws.

According to the petition filed in the Circuit Court of Cole County, Missouri, DNR failed to follow a mandatory process designed to prevent frequent violators of the law from operating landfills in Missouri. The process is spelled out in the Solid Waste Management Law and in DNR’s Violation History rule. First, DNR is to verify a permit applicant’s violations history information. Then, after counting prior violations, DNR is to determine whether the number of violations exceeds the number allowed by the

Violations History rule. DNR is required to deny or revoke a permit if the applicant exceeds the number of allowable violations.

According to ShowMe, assuming that DNR even verified the information submitted by IESI, DNR stopped performing its duties somewhere short of counting the violations. “The habitual violator requirements of the Solid Waste Management Law exist to protect the public from companies that frequently violate the environmental laws. DNR owes a duty to the public to follow these requirements,” said Sherry Zoll, ShowMe’s President.

Great Rivers’ primary purpose is to provide public interest legal services to organizations, citizens groups and individuals who seek to protect the environment. In addition to aiding and advising citizens and organizations, Great Rivers Environmental Law Center works through the courts and administrative agencies to safeguard the environment by enforcing environmental laws.

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