

Odor continues

# IEPA gives Cargill okay

By PATRICIA BOMBARD

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is satisfied that a \$400,000 incinerator designed to eliminate air pollution at the Cargill, Inc., Carpentersville plant is working properly and will issue the company a permit for its operation, an IEPA spokesman said Thursday.

Carl Frason of the IEPA's Air Pollution Control Division in Maywood said a field investigator's recent report on the incinerator indicates that it is working at about 90 percent efficiency and is meeting design goals.

However, reports continue of the odor emanating from the industrial park containing Cargill and other factories.

Thursday, Keith Long, Cargill's plant supervisor, said tests supervised by the IEPA field investigator on April 21 showed that the system "is well within compliance" of IEPA

standards. "We found nothing to disappoint us," Long said. "Our problems are behind us."

**HOWEVER, TRUSTEE** Mary Srajer, one of the most outspoken crusaders concerning the odor, said Thursday she is still receiving complaints regarding the odor, although "not near as many" as in the past.

Village Engineer Carl Caspers said he contacted Cargill officials when he noticed the odor one morning about two weeks ago. "Their feeling was that it couldn't be their odor, that it must be someone else," Caspers said.

"We see the equipment as operating properly and consistently," Frason said. "They had some ups and downs but the latest modifications seem to have solved the problems. We will be granting them a permit."

Adding that the permit authorizes

the plant to operate using the incinerator, Frason said it "is not a license to pollute" and does not mean the IEPA cannot cite the company should the system fail in the future.

**FRANSON ALSO** indicated the Cottage Avenue industrial site will "get more than its share" of continued surveillance by the agency because his office has become "very sensitized" to the problem of odor in the Old Town area of the village.

IEPA officials have said that if the odor continues now that the incinerator is functioning properly, there is a possibility that it is coming from other sources. Incidents of the odor should be reported to the agency's Maywood office, the officials said.

The odor-trapping thermal catalytic incinerator was installed at the Cargill plant last year by order of  
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# IEPA okays Cargill

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the IEPA as the result of legal action, spurred by complaints raised by village residents and officials regarding a thick, sweet-smelling odor that had permeated the area for several years.

The IEPA singled out the Cargill resin plant as the source of the odor. The incinerator was first installed

last fall, but several design flaws forced the company to shut it down and make modifications.

The incinerator is designed to trap and burn the hydrocarbon by-products of the resin manufacturing process, thought to be the cause of the odor, before they escape into the atmosphere.