I am Keith R. Paschall II and I am a Northwest Planners Association resident.

I support the EPA putting the Riverside well field area on the National Priorities List and leading the investigation and cleanup of the site for 2 reasons; IDEM's poor reputation in managing cleanups in a safe and timely fashion and the lack of trust I have in the (NWQOL) Northwest Quality of Life's willingness to answer questions and/or provide information to myself and other members of the community about this issue from their meetings with IDEM and the consultants they've brought in to advise them.

Issues with IDEM

July 21st 2016 at Northwest Quality of Life Meeting (NWQOL), IDEM along with representatives from the city of Indianapolis, Citizen's Energy, and consultants were to present us information and an alternative plan to the EPA's superfund designation. What we got was a bunch of fear mongering and scare tactics that the EPA's involvement in our community would directly result in redlining where home owners would not be able to receive loans, insurance, or even sell their homes. Furthermore we were presented with information from unlabelled graphs showing that the chemical contamination was going down, when it in fact only represented 1 chemical and not the actual chemical that spiked in 2014 that was supposedly reported to the EPA. I was forced to ask a lot of questions on the fly to push them to open up with more of the story. To this day I'm not sure if I asked enough questions or really got the FULL story of what IDEM knows, but what little I did get, disturbed me.

I have enclosed the email I wrote to the NWQOL leadership that night to express my specific concerns with IDEM and their lack of competency and transparency in their direct interactions with concerned community members. (SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT)

IDEM backed out of sending a representative to a forum held by area residents that even a member of the NAACP and 3 EPA representatives attended to answer our questions on August 27th at the Kheprw Institute. On September 1st 2016, Riverside Civic League held a meeting and discussed supposed negotiations with IDEM and the city of the Indianapolis about the investigation and cleanup of this site, again no representatives from IDEM were present to update us with changes to their alternative plan.


I'm going to be blunt and to the point, I do not trust IDEM to balance the pressures of community and business interests at the same time. They have made that clear by choosing to be inaccessible to members of my community that are not in the NWQOL leadership.

Issues with the NWQOL
The Northwest Quality of Life is a relatively new organization (Less than 3 years old) put together to supposedly represent at least 4 or more northwest side neighborhoods. However its governance and leadership is dominated by 1 neighborhood alone and institutional representatives rather than residents from all over our area. The reason for mentioning this is because as I and other residents have been involved in asking tough questions about this particular issue and others we have at different times been ignored, talked to as if we were children, or attacked as outsiders with mal intent. We are ignored or told that the information such as graphs, charts, and presentations from the meetings are unavailable if we had trouble seeing them in person or were out of town during a meeting. Things have gotten so bad that longtime leaders in our community are actively drafting documents to create an alternative to the NWQOL because they don't feel it listens to or represents their community. At the September 1st 2016 Riverside Civic League meeting it was stated that the NWQOL would be the community voice to demand accountability from IDEM. At the same meeting members from the upper NWQOL leadership castigated a resident for expressing his view that he trusted the Obama administration's EPA over the Mike Pence administration IDEM. Words can't express my disappointment in the process and my fears that we will continue to be persecuted for not bowing to their pressure. From the perspective of many residents in my community the NWQOL doesn't listen or respect their voice in the 1st place for us to trust that it will advocate for our well being. Another point of extreme concern is that members of the NWQOL had supposedly just renegotiated a NEW alternative plan with IDEM that morning but could only produce an unsigned, non binding 17 point resolution that would have to be finalized at some later date. IDEM did not even bother to send a single representative to the meeting. Instead a mortgage banker and a retiree from the neighborhood had to present an environmental action plan that experts from IDEM should have been presenting to our community. It shows me that the NWQOL doesn't have strength or credibility to even get IDEM to attend its OWN community meetings, let alone hold it accountable for an environmental cleanup.

In Conclusion, I trust the EPA to investigate and cleanup this site safely and effectively MUCH more than I do IDEM under the supervision of the NWQOL. At the end of the day I'd rather be cautious than to advocate for a partnership with 2 embattled institutions to oversee this.

Keith R. Paschall II - WildStyle