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Village, Park District Ask for Time to Review Barrie Park Restart Plan

Commonwealth Edison and Nicor Gas, Inc. have been asked to delay submitting their proposed plan to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for restarting work in Barrie Park until Village and the Park District environmental and construction experts have had time for a thorough assessment.

The proposed plan, given to the Village late last Wednesday, is complex and cannot be properly examined within the short timeframe suggested by the utilities, Village and Park District officials have told ComEd and Nicor representatives. The plan needs to be assessed not only for its technical effectiveness, but also in terms of the contractual agreements that established the remediation objectives.

“We waited quite a long time for the utilities to provide a written plan that would get work underway without posing any environmental concerns,” said Park District Executive Director Gary Balling. “The utilities took six weeks from the time work was suspended to develop a plan. We need more than a week to properly assess its content.”

Technical consultants for the Village and Park District have been meeting daily since the utilities’ proposed plan was submitted for review. The complexity of the issues and the overriding need to ensure air quality standards are met means more time is needed.

“We would like to get the project restarted as soon as possible,” explained Village Manager Carl Swenson. “But when issues of protecting the health and safety of residents are at stake, speed is not the number one priority.”

Neither Swenson nor Balling were ready to say how long they thought their assessment would take. However, both were optimistic that a plan for getting work underway again could be agreed upon soon.

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