



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4

345 COURTLAND STREET, N.E.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30365

To Whom it may Concern:

By way of introduction, I am Bill Steiner, loaned executive from the United States Environmental Protection Agency to the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games. I began working for the Committee in September of 1994. By trade, I am a hazardous waste emergency response supervisor. My duties at ACOG included policy decisions on air and water quality, but my main duty was assisting Mr. Kevin Nall in the design and operation of the Olympic solid waste and recycling system.

Our goal was to divert 85% of all waste from being landfilled. We accomplished this by using a "two-bin, two-stream" system. Eight thousand blue recycling bins were placed in all competition venues, the Olympic Village and the Olympic Park. Another eight thousand green waste bins were placed in the same locations. Our spectators did a great job of placing plastic bottles and aluminum cans in the blue bins. Waste paper, food scraps and miscellaneous trash went into the green bins.

The "blue stream" was carried by janitors to dedicated compactors at the back of each venue and then trucked to a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) where the bottles and cans were separated, baled and sold. The "green stream" also went to dedicated compactors and was trucked to the MICROLIFE sorting facility in Fulton County where major contaminants such as five-gallon buckets, pallets and any fugitive recyclables were sorted out. Then the waste was shredded and trucked to the MICROLIFE composting facility in Rockdale County.

The entire system depended upon the close co-operation of spectators, janitors, waste haulers, the MRF, MICROLIFE and ACOG management. And it worked.

The most critical player, and the most dependable, was MICROLIFE. When our system became a bit overwhelmed by the huge Olympic crowds, the MICROLIFE sorting operation was able to pull tons of recyclables from the waste stream and send them on to the MRF. Kevin and I used a variety of contractors, vendors and official Olympic Suppliers for our recycling system. Only MICROLIFE delivered all that they promised and more. Much more.

The Rockdale composting facility is a thing of art and beauty. MICROLIFE is adjacent to the staff parking lot for the Equestrian venue. I observed a group of about twenty ACOG volunteers eating lunch next to one of the active piles. When I told them that they were sitting next to about 1,500 tons of rotting garbage, they did not believe me. And they probably still do not. No smell, no flies, no problems.

To satisfy State concerns on soil and groundwater contamination, MICROLIFE built a two-acre asphalt pad for their composting operation. I have determined that the facility poses no threat to the environment and I will recommend that any future expansion be allowed to proceed without having to build a permanent pad. The MICROLIFE process can safely take place on bare ground.

We chose MICROLIFE to handle our composting because they operate a successful facility in Mora, Minnesota, and because they had the financial resources to build a new plant in Atlanta. But before we awarded a contract, I contacted my counterparts in EPA Region V in Chicago. Then I talked to Minnesota State regulators. I also contacted the local solid waste authority that owns the Mora plant. Finally, I asked one of my EPA friends to conduct a thorough background check. All persons contacted gave the same answers. MICROLIFE has the knowledge, expertise, ethics and finances to run a successful solid waste composting operation.

Our program was a smashing success. MICROLIFE played the largest part and I am grateful to them.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Steiner".

Bill Steiner
EPA Advisor to
The Atlanta Committee for
the Olympic Games

August 8, 1996