

From: Dan Marks
To: Tarbuck, Kathy
Subject: Juniper Ridge Landfill - public comment
Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 11:40:41 AM

Ms. Kathy Tarbuck
Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0017

RE: Juniper Ridge Landfill Application

Dear Ms. Tarbuck –

I am writing this letter as a citizen of Maine and as a professional engineer registered in the State of Maine to oppose the Juniper Ridge landfill expansion. The 5 volume application appears comprehensive and, at the same time, is cumbersome for a lay person and citizen of the state to review in a meaningful way. As such, I will not be commenting on the status of the application or any of its technical elements. Instead, I would like to comment in a more general nature as to the future of Maine's waste disposal. My concerns with this project are as follows:

- As evidenced in the application, portions of the proposed expansion appear to overlay existing wetlands. As I am sure you are aware, these wetlands are critical habitat and perform important environmental functions. I am not in favor of expanding a landfill over these wetlands.
- I understand that the original intent of the landfill is to dispose of waste generated in the State of Maine only, and I further understand that there have been reports of out of state waste being disposed of at the landfill. With or without this landfill expansion, I believe we need an audit program to track the origin of waste disposed at this landfill.
- Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the existing and proposed landfills are in close proximity to the Penobscot Nation territory and that the land around the existing landfill is used for Penobscot sustenance activities such as hunting, gathering and fishing. I wonder if the Penobscot Nation was appropriately notified and given the right to object to the project. Please reply confirming the process. The historical context is significant: as original inhabitants of this land, the Wabanaki, including the Penobscot Nation, have been killed and forced off of their land in a continuing process of genocide. I see the environmental degradation of the environment around the last remaining territory of the Penobscot's as a continuation of this long process of genocide. The State of Maine continues to push and squeeze the Wabanaki off their land and make the remaining land available to them increasingly less inhabitable.

The immediate expansion seeks to double the existing capacity, while the ultimate build-out plan appears to enlarge the capacity four-fold. This is a significant expansion. And, as noted in the application, this is expected to increase the life of the landfill between 10 and 12 years. What is the plan after that? As a State, we need to develop a plan with a longer view than the continual need to dispose of waste. We can be leaders in the country in creating this vision.

I understand that while this vision is being realized we will need to continue to dispose of waste materials. To meet this need, I propose that the State identify and locate sites that do not infringe on *any* environmentally sensitive areas, such as wetlands; and, are not in close proximity to any of the other sovereign nations of this land, such as the Wabanaki. In fact, I believe a landfill would be better suited closer to the larger population centers, such as Portland (which is where I live), where the majority of the waste is generated. Finally, as we work to reduce the amount of waste generated and find disposal sites suitable, we should also be working to ensure that the State of Maine is not serving as a dumping ground for waste from other states.

We need to work to improve our environments, not work to degrade or landfill them. We need to work to heal the relationships with our Wabanaki neighbors, not continue to use their little remaining territory as the places suitable for landfills.

I would appreciate a response to my comments.

Kind regards,

Dan Marks

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