

## Responses to Questions asked at Project Overview Meeting #1

November 7, 2024, City of Old Town, Town Hall

Below are questions and answers provided at the first Public Overview Meeting held by BGS and NEWSME about the proposed Phase II Expansion of the Juniper Ridge Landfill in Old Town. Both questions and answers have been edited for brevity and clarity.

1. Is there/will there be a study on the increase of rats in the local communities?

There has not been and will not be a study on local rat populations. Due to the high number of eagles at the site, the rodent population at the landfill is well controlled. Follow up of rat complaints has generally found feeding of livestock or birds to be the attractant.

2. Is the PFAS treatment going to destroy or remove the PFAS compounds from landfill leachate?

Casella is a passive receiver of the per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are present in a wide range of consumer products, including those it receives for disposal. In Vermont, Casella is currently testing one of the nation's first on-site PFAS treatment systems at a landfill. As part of the expansion of the Juniper Ridge Landfill, Casella intends to build upon its experience in Vermont to design, install, and operate a system to treat landfill leachate for PFAS in Maine. Treatment will be to standards to be established by the Maine DEP, per the PBD.

3. How is the landfill leachate collected?

Leachate is contained/collected within the landfill by the leachate collection system. This system consists of a layer of clay, a geosynthetic clay liner, a High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) geomembrane, drainage sand, piping, and a geocomposite net material. With the help of the sand, piping, and geocomposite net, leachate is collected and directed to the cell sump area. From there it is pumped through dual contained piping to the on-site leachate storage tank. This will be covered more completely in the third meeting.

4. Is there an estimated volume of PFAS concentrate removed from the leachate?

As we all know, this is a new technology. The PFAS Treatment Plant is currently in the design stage. The volume of concentrate that will be removed from the leachate will be determined during the design. The third meeting (December 4, 2024) will have a more complete discussion of the leachate PFAS treatment currently being tested at the Vermont landfill.

5. Will the leachate be treated for PFAS when Cell 18 comes online?

Yes, as required by the Public Benefit Determinations, if the Phase II Expansion is approved and constructed, the PFAS treatment will be operational when waste disposal begins in the first cell (Cell 18).

6. Has there been a study of environmental impacts resulting from natural disasters?

Casella evaluated the potential impact from seismic events and finds that the landfill will be stable under any reasonably anticipated earthquakes. The landfill stormwater and leachate management structures are designed for the 24-hour, 25-year storm, as required by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) Rules.

7. Why expand JRL and not another state-owned landfill?

The State owns three landfill properties in Maine. Juniper Ridge is the only operational site of the three. The Dolby Landfill in East Millinocket has received its final closure cap. There is no additional permitted capacity available. The Carpenter Ridge site is located west of exit 227 on Interstate 95. It was licensed in 1996 with the MEDEP , but there are no plans to construct a landfill because there is no existing infrastructure such as access roads, leachate management, or scales, and there would be excessive costs to develop this infrastructure for the limited volume (approximately 2 MCY) that is permitted.

8. Will there be more safeguards to prevent leachate spills or leaks with the increased leachate production from the expansion?

Yes, there will be an additional leachate storage tank to handle the increased leachate production from the landfill expansion.

9. Will the Community Host Agreement with Alton be dissolved?

No, the Community Host Agreement with Alton will be continued just as it is now.

10. What about dewatering the sludge?

The sludge is dewatered at each municipal wastewater treatment plant. There are currently two facilities under development in Maine that are intended to further dewater sludge, but neither is yet operating.

11. What fire prevention methods are available?

JRL has fire extinguishers in each piece of heavy equipment and at the site's buildings. An on-site water truck is available for use if needed. Hot loads are off-loaded in a specially designated area. Soil stockpiles are available to smother any smoldering materials or hot ashes. The entire site is non-smoking. Overnight security monitors the site after normal business for fires. Management is called if problems were to arise.