Responses to Questions asked at the Project Overview Meeting #3

December 4, 2024, City of Old Town, Town Hall

Below are questions and answers provided at the third 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. How deep were the tests pits that were dug during site selection?
   About 12 feet.

2. How is the Landfill hydraulically isolated?
   The groundwater from the landfill does not flow to the residential wells in the surrounding area.

3. Is there an underground water table beneath the landfill?
   There is groundwater beneath the landfill, but no recharge occurs below the base of the landfill. The groundwater beneath the landfill is not infiltrated due to the landfill liner system that contains and collects the leachate and the leachate pumps and piping infrastructure that transport the leachate from the landfill to the leachate holding tank.

4. How many ground water wells are you concerned with regarding contamination?
   There is no evidence of impact from landfill leachate to any of the monitoring wells.

5. What would be a problem with the groundwater that would require pumping?
   If testing of the monitoring wells were to show evidence of significant impact to the groundwater from the landfill, it is possible that pumping the monitoring well, and groundwater in the surrounding area would be required.

6. Is there infrastructure in place to pump groundwater?
   There is no infrastructure required or currently in place to pump groundwater at Juniper Ridge. The calculated time for leachate to travel from the landfill to any sensitive receptor such as the property line is at least six years, so there would be sufficient time to implement a remediation program in the unlikely event that one was required.

7. How many residential homes have drinking water supplied to them by Casella?
   Approximately 29 homes have drinking water supplied to them by Casella. This is provided as a courtesy, not because drinking water is impacted by the landfill.

8. If there were contaminated groundwater, the what happens to the contaminated groundwater after it is pumped?

If groundwater were significantly impacted, it would be collected and sent to an appropriate facility for treatment. Currently, there is no evidence of impact from landfill leachate in the groundwater.

9. How do you calculate the changes in flow rate of the groundwater over long periods of time?
   Engineers overseeing JRL state that the groundwater flow does not change substantially over time.

10. How close to the landfill does a resident have to be to get their drinking water tested?
    There is no hard-and-fast rule for how close a resident must be to have their drinking water tested, but in general this is done for close neighbors and abutters up to approximately a quarter mile away.

11. Are there any residential wells that show evidence of contamination?
    Per Casella, there are no residential wells that show evidence of any impact from the landfill.

12. Is there any water testing conducted below the outfall at the ND Paper Mill?
    Casella does not test at the wastewater treatment plant outfall.

13. How much testing is conducted by the MEDEP?
    The MEDEP does not conduct testing at the landfill. Sevee and Maher Engineers conducts the sampling, and the samples are sent to Maine Environmental Laboratory in Yarmouth, Maine, which is a private laboratory that is certified by the State. Some samples may be sent to other certified laboratories, depending on the compound being tested. This is consistent with most other on-site water testing in Maine.

14. When are residential wells tested? What are the testing parameters?
    Wells can be tested upon request from the residents, as discussed above. The testing parameters are the drinking water standards.

15. What is the purpose of the GCL?
    The Geosynthetic Clay Liner (GCL) is part of the liner system. It is placed under the 80 mil HDPE Geomembrane Liner within the 4-foot-thick Dual-Liner System. It consists of two layers of fabric with powdered bentonite clay in between. Bentonite is a type of clay that expands when it is wetted. Once the liner system is placed, the water contained in the soil components of the liner are transmitted through capillary action to the GCL, and the bentonite expands. Once expanded, it has an extremely low permeability and would help to contain any liquid from the landfill.

16. What is the life expectancy of this expansion?
    The landfill would reach full capacity in 2040 at current fill rates.

17. At Casella's landfill in Coventry, Vermont, what happens to the concrete that is mixed with the liquid containing the concentrated PFAS compounds after the foam fractionation process? Is it considered hazardous waste?

    The liquid containing concentrated PFAS compounds is encapsulated in concrete. The concrete is then wrapped in plastic and strategically placed within the landfill for disposal, where it can be protected from being broken by daily waste placement activities.

18. Who paid for the treatment system for the Coventry Landfill in VT?
    Casella paid for the treatment system at the Coventry Landfill.

19. Is Casella going to treat the leachate for PFAS if the expansion is denied?
    The PBD requires Casella to install a leachate treatment system for PFAS prior to beginning operation of the Phase II Expansion. If the Phase II Expansion were denied, Casella would reassess at that time.