



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

July 30, 2024

Lisa Turner
Sevee & Maher Engineers, Inc.
PO Box 85A
Cumberland Center, ME 04021

RE: Application for Determination of Public Benefit, Juniper Ridge Landfill (JRL)

Dear Ms. Turner:

The Department has completed an initial review of the above application, and has a number of comments and questions, as follows.

1. Section 1.5.1 Description of Current Waste types. CDD processing fines and clean wood waste are used as alternative daily cover (ADC). The application notes that if ADC was not available, virgin sand and gravel would be used, and that using alternative daily cover preserves landfill space for other materials. Please explain further; if ADC materials were not available, wouldn't the same amount of space would be taken up by virgin sand and gravel?
2. Section 1.7.1 Changes in Maine Legislation. The application notes that if sludge acceptance volumes remain consistent with 2020 through 2023 data, JRL anticipates receiving approximately 83,200 tons of municipal and industrial sludges per year. As you may be aware, Maine Regional Conversion Facility, LLC is constructing a 200 wet tons per day sludge dewatering facility in Norridgewock. The facility is expected to be operational by late 2025. Additionally, it is our understanding that Casella Waste Systems (CWS) is partnering with Viridi Energy to reopen and expand an anaerobic digester facility in Brunswick which could reduce the volume of sludge delivery to JRL by 90 percent. Please explain how these initiatives could affect the amount of sludge and CDD bulking materials accepted at JRL.
3. Section 1.7.3 Penobscot Energy Recovery Company WTE Facility (now known as Eagle Point Energy Center LLC, or 'EPEC'). Please provide the current swap agreement between the Municipal Review Committee (MRC) and Pine Tree Waste, Inc. that is referenced in footnote 32. This section notes that "[s]ince the September 2023 shutdown of PERC, all bypass MSW, including MRC bypass MSW, has been sent to JRL for disposal." It is the Department's understanding that all MSW bypass from MRC-contracted communities is contractually obligated to go to the Crossroads Landfill in Norridgewock; however, a swap agreement was established to mitigate transportation logistical difficulties for MSW that was in closer proximity to JRL (i.e., greater Bangor area) such that this waste would go to JRL and an equal amount of waste would be delivered to the Crossroads Landfill from communities that contract with Pine Tree Waste, Inc. that are in closer proximity to that facility. Based on MRC's 2023 Annual Report, about 67% of MRC-contracted community MSW is destined for disposal at JRL while the Crossroads Landfill receives about 31%.

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4. Section 1.7.5 Other Maine Landfills. This section specifies that approximately 880,000 tons per year of waste is estimated to go to JRL under current conditions; however, the 5-year average waste disposal rate from 2019 to 2023 is noted as 860,771 tons per year. In 2023, 834,363 tons of waste, were disposed at JRL. A clarification should be provided.
5. Section 3.1 Waste Characterization and Solid Waste Infrastructure Use. Regarding the amount of MSW bypass JRL received from Maine's waste-to-energy facilities, please explain the marked increase in bypass disposal from these facilities during this time period (2020 to 2022). Based on Table 3-2, the amount of MSW bypass from PERC, MMWAC, and ecomaine more than doubled during this time. It would be helpful to show the amount of bypass from each facility as it is the Department's understanding that while PERC contributed a significant portion of this MSW bypass disposed at JRL, the amount of MSW bypass from ecomaine also increased during 2022, and that bypass from MMWAC was not received at JRL prior to 2022.
6. Section 3.1 Waste Characterization and Solid Waste Infrastructure Use. While Table 3-3 shows that the amount of mixed CDD disposed at JRL has been relatively consistent from 2020 through 2022, data from JRL's annual reports illustrate that mixed CDD disposal has steadily increased from 199,405 tons in 2014 to 347,016 tons in 2023. Please explain how JRL works to ensure that the amount of mixed CDD disposed has been recycled to the extent practicable.
7. Section 3.1 Waste Characterization and Solid Waste Infrastructure Use. Table 3-3 includes the quantity of processed CDD sent to a landfill for daily cover, shaping, and grading in 2020, 2021, and 2022. The 2020 and 2021 quantities are based on the amount of CDD originating from Maine and processed at Maine facilities, but the 2022 quantity is not. A clarification should be provided.
8. Section 3.2.1 Source Reduction and Reuse. This section notes that recycled materials are used in a number of applications at the landfill. Please state which recycled materials are used for which purposes.
9. Section 3.3.2 Recycling. Please list the CWS-owned and/or operated transfer stations in Maine with recycling capability, the drop-off locations for recyclables, the municipalities in which CWS collects curbside recyclables, and the types of recyclables handled.
10. Section 3.3.2 Recycling. The application describes CWS' work with a large city in Maine to assist with curbside tagging programs, audits, and post-tagging audits for recyclables. This effort halved the contamination rate; has CWS considered taking this approach in other municipalities to decrease contamination of recyclables?
11. Section 3.3.3 Universal and E-Waste Consolidation Facilities. Please list the CWS-owned and/or operated facilities in Maine providing universal and e-waste collection capability.
12. Section 3.3.4 Wood Waste Processing. The application states that an on-site transfer station is used to collect clean wood waste, which is chipped and used for alternative daily

cover. We understand land clearing debris, pallets, and rail ties may be collected and chipped at this transfer station. Consideration should be given to using chips from land clearing debris for erosion control projects during construction at the facility site or for off-site projects rather than within the landfill. Consideration should be given to selling chipped wood waste as a green wood chip and chipped pallets and rail ties as substitute fuel chips to facilities with the appropriate fuel substitution license.

13. How much daily cover has been used at JRL in the past several years, and what percent has been virgin sand and gravel as opposed to alternative daily cover?
14. Section 3.3.4 Wood Waste Processing. The application states that in 2023, clean wood was separated from CDD and land clearing debris and other clean wood waste was collected from four CWS facilities, and sent for processing to divert it from direct disposal. Where and for what use was the processed material sent? Can this be done at other CWS-owned and/or operated transfer stations to help increase recycling rates?
15. Section 3.3.5 Composting, Processing, and Beneficial Reuse. Additional information should be provided regarding the over 31,000 tons of organics that CWS had a direct role in recovering. Please describe the scope, type, and location of these projects. In addition, please provide details regarding the management of the beneficial use project by CWS for a major chemical manufacturer's byproduct.
16. How do the various CWS program areas (such as organics, recycling, hauling, and facilities) work together to minimize the amount of waste sent for disposal?
17. Section 3.3.7 Education and Innovation. This section notes that CWS deployed a mobile recycling app to six Maine communities and additional deployments are planned for 2024. Education and outreach are important factors in implementing successful recycling programs. How is this app deployed and can it be deployed as a statewide initiative to educate the public about recycling? It is unclear how and why the app was deployed to only six communities during this first phase. More information about this initiative would be helpful.
18. Section 3.4 BGS Efforts to Promote the Solid Waste Hierarchy. The application states that BGS provides assistance to municipal decision-makers regarding waste management, but examples were not included. A clarification should be provided.
19. Section 5.0 Consistency with Ensuring Environmental Justice for the Community in which the Facility is Proposed. This section specifies that "[a]n expansion of the monitoring program to include the additional 61 acres will continue to protect people and the environment surrounding the landfill." Does BGS and NEWSME anticipate making any enhancements to the current monitoring programs if an expansion is approved?

Regarding the property value guarantee for neighbors living in the immediate proximity to JRL, have any of the neighbors taken advantage of this program?

20. Appendix J, City of Old Town Host Community Agreement. Section 7 of Old Town's Host Community Agreement notes that "persons owning land contiguous to a State-owned

Landfill may request that quarterly water quality sampling and analysis be performed on their private water supply.” Please specify whether any neighboring water supplies have been sampled as part of this program and if so, please provide the Department with the results.

21. Members of the public commented on CWS’ program to provide bottled water to residents, and assumed this is done in the event a residential well has been contaminated by the landfill. The Department has no data that demonstrates residential well contamination due to the landfill; please explain the intent of the bottled water program.
22. Members of the public commented on the level of PFAS in the landfill leachate and CWS’ leachate PFAS treatment system in use at a Vermont landfill. Please discuss CWS’ experience with the leachate PFAS treatment system, including timing of engineering design, installation, and operation, treatment outcome, and whether CWS is considering installing PFAS leachate treatment at JRL.
23. A common theme of the public comments has been the belief that CWS has utilized significant landfill capacity for disposal of waste originating out of State, rather than conserving the space for waste originating in Maine, and that providing additional landfill capacity now will inhibit efforts to reduce waste generation and disposal. Please address these concerns.

Please respond to the above comments, and contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,



KAREN KNUUTI
Division of Materials Management
Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management
Eastern Maine Regional Office

Copy: Lane Gould--BGS
Jeffrey Pelletier, Wayne Boyd--CWS
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