

Maine DEP
Public Hearing of the
Juniper Ridge Landfill
July 16, 2024

My name is Ralph Leonard, a resident of Old Town, Maine. I am presently serving on the City of Old Town Advisory Committee for the Juniper Ridge Landfill.

Thirty years ago, I developed the PERC plant in Orrington which for over 30 years provided a solution for solid waste disposal for 159 towns in our area. This solution met the requirements of the State for proper disposal of waste and minimized the use of landfill capacity at Juniper Ridge.

When Juniper Ridge was bought by the State of Maine from an Old Town mill that was shutting down, Old Town was assured by the State that only ash from the PERC plant and a sister plant in Biddeford would be permitted, plus an occasional solid waste during short-term down time would be stored at the landfill. Unfortunately, the State had to amend that almost immediately because this was the only landfill the state owned and it became a convenient solution for waste that the State had no other solution to meet.

This is not fair to the citizens of Old Town and the City has respectfully requested the State to address this in a Bill submitted by our Representative Jim Dill.

Our hope is that this Bill will be passed and the State will be required to find a satisfactory solution to solid waste disposal within

the Solid Waste Management hierarchy as stated in Title 38 Section 2101.

If this happens and facilities are developed, Town and State of Maine needs for solid waste disposal will be met. To be certain no further delay in finding solutions occur, I am suggesting if after 2 years no solution has been found, that tipping fees for solid waste at the Juniper Ridge Land fill be doubled and the extra money go into a fund to be administered by the State to help find a solution.