

**From:** [Chuck Leithiser](#)  
**To:** [Knuuti, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** Comments re/ PBD for Juniper Ridge  
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Dear Environmental Specialist Knuuti,

Please accept the following comments regarding my opposition to the Public Benefit Determination for the proposed expansion of the Juniper Ridge Landfill in Old Town.

The application for the Public Benefit Determination and the DEP-requested follow-up information contain numerous falsehoods. For example, it is claimed that the landfill is not / will not harm the waters of the state. We all know that the landfill leachate is polluting the Penobscot River, to the detriment of local populations and others downstream. The only reason that the referenced claim can be made is that the DEP is not currently testing or is inadequately testing the outflow of the Nine Dragons Wastewater Treatment facility, which "processes" the landfill leachate, for many pollutants (including the PFAS "forever chemicals") or the amounts of such pollutants. The contamination and pollution of the Penobscot River has resulted in health warnings issued to certain populations to limit the amount of, or not eat at all, fish from the river. How is it that this application has supposedly addressed "environmental justice" when the result is that people who have been consuming Penobscot River fish for many generations can no longer do so? The claims that the river will not be harmed and that Environmental Justice - especially for the Penobscot Nation - has been assured are the two most prominent falsehoods (in other words, downright lies) within the application.

Additionally, concerned local citizens were repeatedly assured that only residues from the processing of Construction and Demolition Debris for fuel **for the Old Town paper mill only** would be permitted for disposal in the Juniper Ridge Landfill. That assurance has also been proven to be false. In 2006, a "secret" amendment to the operating services agreement for the landfill resulting in the residues from CDD processing for fuel chips for any mill in the state being OK'd for disposal at JRL. At this time, there is no in-state processing of CDD for fuel chips for **any** mill in Maine, yet the processing residues continue to flow into the landfill.

The application also states that there have been multiple opportunities for public input throughout the state-owned landfill history. Please see the above referenced "secret amendment". Never were the DEP, the City of Old Town, the Juniper Ridge Landfill

Advisory Committee (of which I am a sitting member) notified of the 2006 amendments until after the fact. How can there be public input on something about which the public has not been notified?

The fact that the application contains so many misstatements and falsehoods should alone be sufficient grounds for rejection. However, as the State as a whole has done nothing to plan for limiting future waste or its disposal, I am sadly guessing that the DEP will somehow find a way to approve the Public Benefit Determination and then the expansion of the landfill. At the very least, the DEP should insist on better testing of the mill's wastewater treatment facility's discharges into the Penobscot River, by greatly increasing the number of toxins and pollutants being tested for - including PFAS and PFOS chemicals, and the frequency of such testing, such as some of our neighboring states have done. At best, the operator of the landfill and the State agency responsible for oversight of the landfill would begin to tell the truth.

Sincerely,

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