

**From:** [Dawn Neptune Adams](#)  
**To:** [Clark, Paula M](#); [Burke, Ruth A](#)  
**Subject:** Chapter 400 Rule Petition Comments  
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Members of the Penobscot Nation would like to invite the BEP to think of the Penobscot River and people when considering Chapter 400 rules.

Penobscot Elders have been in Prayer for the health of the Penobscot River, and in turn, for us all. The health of our water affects each and every one of us.

The Penobscot River has provided for our People since time began here in Wabanakeag, now called "Maine". It has been years since we could eat the Fish and/or to safely practice our cultural ways of Being because of damage done by Industrial polluters.

One such polluter is the Juniper Ridge Landfill, which dumps more than 1.3 million gallons of leachate (junk juice) into the Penobscot River per month. The leachate is inadequately treated just downriver from our reservation at the Nine Dragons paper mill wastewater treatment plant and dumped into the water that surrounds us. This problem is compounded by out-of-state waste brought to the landfill to provide profit for Casella.

This video includes drone footage of Juniper Ridge Landfill and an underwater view of the leachate outflow into the Penobscot River:

<https://vimeo.com/462000760>

The Maine Board of Environmental Protection (BEP) is reminded to remember the lifeways of the Penobscot people when considering changes to Maine's waste policy. Change the definition of Maine-generated waste in order to control the disposal of out-of-state waste in Maine's publicly-owned landfill, and require the consideration of environmental justice and equal protection when expanding or siting waste facilities in Maine.

Sincerely,  
Dawn Neptune Adams  
Sunlight Media Collective