

April 28, 2021

Victoria Eleftheriou
Deputy Bureau Director
Bureau of Remediation and Solid Waste Management
Department of Environmental Protection

**RE: Crossroads Landfill - Draft Phase 14 Expansion License Decision
#S-010735-WD-YB-N**

Dear Ms. Eleftheriou,

I am writing on behalf of Conservation Law Foundation (“CLF”) to request that the public comment period for the draft license for the Phase 14 Expansion of the Crossroads Landfill in Norridgewock, Maine, be extended twenty-one days (from the current public comment deadline of April 30, 2021 to May 21, 2021). Given the scope and magnitude of this proposal, along with the significant public comment surrounding it the public comment period should be extended to allow for more meaningful and robust engagement from all interested parties.

CLF is an environmental advocacy organization working to protect communities from environmental harm and injustice, here in Maine and across all New England. CLF’s Zero Waste Project works to address unsustainable and polluting waste management practices and promote proven waste management solutions like source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting, as set forth in Maine’s solid waste hierarchy.¹

06-096 CMR Ch. 3, § 27(A) requires that draft license decisions be made available for public inspection and requires *at least five working days* of public review before the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection may take final action.² This public comment period is designed so that interested parties may provide feedback to the Department on the proposed license, which the Department – in its discretion – may use to revise the draft license.³

Five days is not an adequate time frame to provide comments on this proposal of this magnitude. The proposed expansion is substantial. This proposal would expand the largest commercial landfill in the state – allowing for the landfilling of 7.75 million cubic yards of waste.⁴ This expansion raises issues related to surface water, ground water, wetlands, air quality, and public health.

Additionally, there is significant public interest in the proposed expansion and the public comment period should be expanded to allow for more meaningful input from interested parties. Thirty-five individuals submitted written comments.⁵ Thirteen individuals participated in the

¹ 38 M.R.S.A. § 2101.

² 06-096 CMR Ch. 3, § 27(A). *Emphasis added.*

³ See, 06-096 CMR Ch. 2, § 18.

⁴ Department of Environmental Protection, Draft License Waste Management Disposal Services of Maine, Inc., Crossroads Landfill Phase 14 Expansion. p. 13 (April 23, 2021).

⁵ *Id.* at 11.

October 1, 2020 public hearing. This number is unlikely to be reflective of the true public interest as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic limited public involvement. The virtual public hearing required those interested to participate via Zoom with a video feed. Therefore, if those interested parties did not have the bandwidth or technology necessary to participate via Zoom, they were effectively barred from participating. Moreover, the hearing occurred at a times, 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm, when many of those most impacted by this facility did not have the tools necessary to access the meeting remotely.

Given the short timeline currently pending, we ask that you render a decision on this request as soon as practicable. Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Peter W. Blair Jr
Peter Blair
Staff Attorney
Conservation Law Foundation.