

Norridgewock Landfill Expansion Comments April 30, 2021

Dear Department of Environmental Protection,

Please accept these comments on the recently approved Expansion of WMI's Crossroads Landfill in Norridgewock. It is an insult to the Public to allow only five days for comment on this voluminous document. I urge you to consider extending the comment period.

My initial objection to this new license for landfill capacity is that it is actually an "Expansion" in name only. It is truly a New Commercial Landfill which was prohibited in Maine in the 1989 landmark waste laws which mandated public ownership of new landfills in Maine. The term "expansion" means just what it says, an enlargement of an existing facility. This landfill would be separated from the existing one by roughly one-half mile. The legislators who approved enabling this landfill "expansion" were not told that it would actually be a separate pile of waste.

Maine is considered by many waste haulers in New England as an easier place to dispose of toxic materials than their own state. Some of these materials licensed for Crossroads would be prohibited in other states or classified as Hazardous. Maine seems to have a very hands-off approach to landfill regulation, relying on the operators to be in full compliance with prohibitions and monitoring the contents of actual loads. Until this has changed it is impossible for the Public to have confidence and feel protected.

PFAS and PFOS are present in many permitted wastes into Crossroads. Monitoring of these "forever chemicals" in barely treated leachate dumped into Maine waters should at least be implemented before any additional landfill capacity is permitted. Otherwise it is impossible to certify in a license that this facility shall not pollute ANY waters of the State.

Current DEP landfill construction standards only require building the facility to withstand a 25 year precipitation event. With climate change impending predicting more severe and frequent storms it is time to proactively enact stricter standards as part of preparing Maine for the coming cataclysm. Otherwise stormwaters will overflow collection devices and pollute the wetlands that surround the site.

This facility has a history of polluting its surrounds via a toxic materials landslide. Much more recently there have been fires that burned for long periods. Shamefully the responses by WMI and DEP lacked immediate notification of the Public or testing of the smoke's toxicity. Area residents feel that they have become a Sacrifice Zone which benefits out of state dumpers.

The era of empty and twisted words in DEP permits needs to change if we are to have a chance to fulfill the potential of Maine's citizens and survive climate change with minimal deleterious effects.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward S. Spencer