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Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 7:39 PM
To: Eleftheriou, Victoria H
Subject: Public Comment on the "Approval with Conditions for Waste Management license application #S-010735-WD-YB-N"

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Good Evening,

I am writing to express serious concerns about the proposed landfill expansion in Norridgewock.

A number of years ago, I had the opportunity to tour the existing landfill in in Norridgewock, and was shocked at the massive industrial scale of the operations there. This is not a "town dump." This is a major business corporation exploiting the health of local people and the wellbeing of our rivers and groundwater aquifers to turn a significant profit. My initial reaction was, "who in their right mind thought it appropriate to site this scale of operations so close to these rivers?" That sentiment remains strong in my mind today, as I consider the possibility of even more out of state waste coming into Western Maine. In what world is it acceptable to locate a waste disposal facility on wetlands, and literally surrounded on all sides by rivers and streams?

I am hard pressed to understand how an expansion of this operation can possibly be construed as a "public benefit." Yes, Maine, like everywhere else in the world, has a need to dispose of MSW, an issue to which there is not an easy or palatable solution. That said, this landfill expansion is, according to the documents provided by the applicant, is not primarily about finding a least-harmful disposal option for Maine's MSW volume. Rather, this project is about taking in large volumes of out-of-state MSW, so-called CCD, and lucrative toxic (aka "special") waste, including sewage sludge, contaminated soils, and the concentrated pollutant-rich byproduct of incinerator operations, in order to make more money for the business corporations that are pushing this application, while outsourcing the true costs of this disposal to the residents of the Norridgewock area for generations to come.

When demand is high, and supply is low, profits are maximized. In this case, demand for special waste disposal is only growing, yet most states and provinces in our region have refused to license new facilities to receive these types of wastes, due to an appropriate desire to protect the health of their residents and the environmental well-being upon which that health rests. As such, the supply of special waste disposal sites in our region is constrained, producing a lucrative opportunity for any company that can bring new disposal capacity online. I am only seeing private, not public, benefit here.

Quite to the contrary of the public good, this proposed facility will be allowed to take in significant volumes of PFAS/PFOS contaminated sludge, exacerbating pollution issues from these "forever chemicals" that have become frighteningly apparent in Maine over the last couple of years, and will remove 10 acres of wetland that currently buffers flooding to, and from, the nearby waterways. There is no plan in place to address the impact of flooding on landfill operations, nor to prevent the migration of pollutants into nearby waterbodies in the case of future flooding. This seems in direct opposition to the requirement that licensed landfills not cause pollution to the waters of the State.

For cripes sake, there are residences, two significant salmon rivers, large amounts of prime farmland, and a public drinking water source all within spitting distance of this proposed facility expansion. Those things all provide significant "public benefits" and stand to be irreparably harmed by this operation. I urge the Department to think long and hard

about who is most benefited by this proposal, and to take a common-sense stand against encouraging additional out-of-state waste disposal in Maine.

I hope you will consider the perspective that our economy, and the well-being of our residents, is best served by activities that heighten our State's brand-image as a pristine and inviting "vacationland" where people can come to recreate, where long-term residents can participate in traditional livelihoods, and where new residents can make a home in our beautiful State, bolstered by the recent growth in remote work opportunities. All three of these significant engines of economic growth will be harmed if we prioritize corporate profits over the protection of the waters and ecosystems that make Maine such a marketable icon, both regionally and globally.

Sincerely,

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