
From: Bonnie Rukin
Sent: Sunday, May 02, 2021 7:39 PM
To: Eleftheriou, Victoria H
Subject: opposition to expansion of landfill

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As the Coordinator of Slow Money Maine, an 11-year old statewide network of 2500 participants who are committed to building a healthy local food economy in Maine, and as an individual involved in supporting indigenous Maine communities, I am writing in strong opposition to the possible expansion of the Norridgewock landfill, specifically opposing the DEP Draft Decision of Approval with Conditions of WMDSM License application #S-010735-WD-YB-N.

This expansion has the potential to significantly harm the health of local people, the health of the Kennebec River, and the well-being of endangered Atlantic Salmon populations. It is also situated in a region that is particularly sacred and historically important to Wabenaki people--both a major traditional site for gathering and food production, and the location of the 1724 massacre of Abenaki people by colonial troops.

It is clear that this landfill has a history of serious problems, that have already impacted the health of people in nearby communities, as well as the environment. These problems include the landfill collapse and leaching of contaminants into local wells and streams, as well as of catching on fire and sending out toxic smoke plumes. Many of the waste materials that would be allowed at the new landfill are currently banned from landfills in other Northeast states. Expanding the landfill poses a risk to human health, to the environment, and to Wabanaki sites of cultural and historical significance.

We are at a critical point of awareness and conscious engagement for planetary health in our state, region, nation, and world. WE MUST FOCUS ON PROTECTING AND ENHANCING LIFE IN ALL FORMS!!!!

I urge you to withdraw this draft decision of approval, especially given the likely inability to meet conditions that would meet healthy standards in support of life, and in respect of the Native Americans that were the original caretakers of the land that we call home in Maine.

Thank you, Bonnie Rukin