
From: Eileen Murphy
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2021 1:30 PM
To: Eleftheriou, Victoria H
Subject: Comments on DEP Draft Decision of Approval with Conditions of WMDSM license application #S-010735-WD-YB-N

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May 4, 2020

Ms. Victoria Eleftheriou
Deputy Director
Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management
Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Dear Ms. Eleftheriou,

I am writing to express my **opposition to the DEP Draft Decision of Approval with Conditions of WMDSM license application #S-010735-WD-YB-N**. From 2012-2016, I attended college on Wabanaki land at the University of Maine in Orono and in May 2016, I graduated from the university with a B.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Part of my schooling was to learn and understand the fundamentals of Environmental Engineering, including the construction, proper use, and impact of landfills on the surrounding environment. In other words, this issue hits close to home and I would like to share my thoughts and comments on the matter with you.

The decision to approve this license application would have the potential to pollute and disturb land and waterways that are historically and culturally significant to the Wabanaki nation. The land on which this “special use” landfill is proposed to be built, is culturally significant, in that the 1724 Massacre of Abenaki occurred on site. The use of this land for waste disposal would be especially insulting to the Wabanaki nation and it should be barred from use in this manner, specifically. As a historically oppressed group, I feel that it is only moral to remember their history and past, not erase it. In addition to acknowledging the difficult past the members of the Wabanaki tribe have endured, it is also pertinent to note that the construction of this landfill has the potential to further disparage and harm this marginalizing group. “Special use landfills” accept materials in which many other landfills reject, due to the potential for contamination or other environmental reasons. By locating this landfill in Norridgewock so closely to Maine’s clean waterways, the potential for future harm and environmental damage is too great a risk for the reward. The Wabanaki have relied on the Kennebec River as a supply for fresh water, fishing and transportation. If this waterway becomes polluted, their heritage activities on the river may be in jeopardy. This should be cause for immediate reconsideration of the decision to approve this application.

I hope you read these comments and consider them with great weight. The decision to approve this landfill has the ability to create a butterfly effect that would be hard to contain once it becomes unraveled. The future is now. Please consider doing the right thing and withdraw support for the approval of this landfill application.

Regards,

Eileen Murphy