
From: Jesse Saffair
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2021 11:28 AM
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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Dear Ms. Eleftheriou,

I am writing to humbly express my concerns about the proposed expansion of the Norridgewock landfill, which would pose risks to the environment, to human health, and to sites of cultural and historical significance to Indigenous Peoples.

The proposed location threatens the environment as it is surrounded by water within a mile on all sides, and would require destruction of 10 acres of wetlands. Moreover, as no testing or treatment of leachate for PFAS/PFOS will be required, there is a risk that these contaminants could enter the watershed and cause widespread harm. The old Norridgewock landfill collapsed in the 1980's and spread sewage fungus and other contaminants into local wells and Mill stream. The proposal does not make it adequately clear how future contamination events will be avoided.

The risk of chemicals leaking into groundwater and streams, particularly given that PFAS/PFOS will not be required, also raises concerns for human health. The proposed expansion, which would move the landfill much closer to the river and town water source, could put residents at risk of consuming contaminated water. Based on the indications that the proposed expansion would threaten groundwater, air quality, and the well-being of neighbors, the license should be denied.

Finally, the expansion of the landfill poses a threat to important sites for Indigenous Peoples. Norridgewock holds particular significance to the Abenaki tribe, as the river has been an important site for gathering and food production for centuries, and was also the location of the terrible 1724 massacre of Abenaki people by colonial troops. I urge you to take this history into account, and heed the present calls by Abenaki people to deny the license for expansion.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jesse

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Jesse Saffair
she/her