

From: Susan Lauchlan
To: Tarbuck, Kathy
Subject: Juniper Ridge Landfill Expansion Application
Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 11:44:20 AM

I attended the afternoon session of yesterday's Maine Board of Environmental Protection public hearing on the applications submitted by the State of Maine Bureau of General Services (BGS) and NEWSME Landfill Operations, LLC (NEWSME) for a 9.35 MILLION cubic yard expansion of the Juniper Ridge Landfill. [License and Permit Identification #S-0120700-WD-BI-N and #L-024251-TG-C-N]

Prior to attending I knew very little of this facility. After listening to the various testimonies, this is what I came away with:

- 1) That many people in the solid waste management field think Juniper Ridge is a very good facility and doing a very good job of managing the landfill.
- 2) That JRL is not allowed to accept out-of-state waste.
- 3) That JRL actually does accept a sizable amount of out-of-state waste, mainly through some law that allows out-of-state waste, mainly construction and demolition debris, to come into the state to be processed at Re-Energy in Lewiston where they extract some usable materials with approximately 90% of what remains going to JRL.
- 4) That in general, landfill operators have an incentive to secure more volume and to fill at a rapid rate to ensure adequate cash flow for operations.
- 5) That because JRL is accepting out-of-state waste, even though by a convoluted system it is not called that, the landfill is filling up much more rapidly, hence the need for expansion.

My conclusion from the above points is that, though this is not a simple issue, in order to protect the citizens of Maine and Maine lands and water, the DEP and BEP should close the loophole that allows this volume of out-of-state waste to be sent to JRL. And furthermore, that **DEP and BEP deny the expansion of JRL.**

Regarding Chapter 400 of DEP Maine Solid Waste Management Rules Licensing Criteria, Section 3.D, "Licensing Criteria for Solid Waste Facilities", which specifies that the Department (DEP) shall issue a license for a solid waste facility only when it finds, based upon substantial evidence in the record, that the solid waste facility will not contaminate any water of the State, contaminate, the ambient air, constitute a hazard to health or welfare, or create a nuisance.

It would seem that though JRL has already been licensed, the standards they had to meet in order to get the license must be maintained and in fact must be accounted for in order to be given license to expand.

Given the testimony that I heard yesterday, there are real questions about water contamination from leachates. There are toxins and contaminants that are not removed from the leachates that JRL sends to two wastewater treatment plants.

There are also issues of contamination of the air via odors and gases released. Air emissions from landfills primarily consist of carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, malodorous compounds, and other organic compounds (US EPA 1995) which contribute to air quality problems.

Therefore, I believe that **DEP and BEP should deny the expansion of JRL.**

I will end by including a copy of this research from Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions: **[White Paper: Solid Waste Management in Maine: Past, Present and Future](#)**

Sincerely,

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<http://umaine.edu/mitchellcenter/files/2015/02/FINALSolid-Waste-Whitepaper-2.pdf>

Solid Waste Management in Maine: Past, Present and Future

umaine.edu

Solid Waste Management in Maine: Past, Present and Future Materials Management
Research Group: Travis Blackmer, George Criner, David Hart, Cynthia Isenhour
