

WEBVTT

1

00:00:00.050 --> 00:00:02.620

Melanie Loyzim: Receive will also be posted on our website.

2

00:00:04.530 --> 00:00:08.539

Melanie Loyzim: I understand that there is a lot of interest in this application and concern.

3

00:00:08.810 --> 00:00:14.879

Melanie Loyzim: I will provide a brief explanation of the law that governs this application for a public benefit. Determination.

4

00:00:15.350 --> 00:00:19.880

Melanie Loyzim: then a representative for the applicant will present a summary of their application.

5

00:00:20.010 --> 00:00:23.620

Melanie Loyzim: and then I'll begin calling on registrants to present your comments.

6

00:00:24.670 --> 00:00:31.989

Melanie Loyzim: Today's meeting is not a Q&A session, so there will not be an opportunity for back and forth with Ddp. Staff or the applicant.

7

00:00:32.170 --> 00:00:40.759

Melanie Loyzim: If you have questions that remain unanswered, you could make note of them when you present your comments today or submit them to the Department with your written comments.

8

00:00:41.450 --> 00:00:52.100

Melanie Loyzim: Dep. Staff may not be able to respond to all of the questions that we receive, but we will be making updates to the website or provide additional public information as needed.

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00:00:53.320 --> 00:00:56.279

Melanie Loyzim: So now, I'll briefly explain why we are here today.

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00:00:56.980 --> 00:01:02.749

Melanie Loyzim: Expanding the landfill requires 2 separate review processes and decisions by the Department.

11

00:01:03.260 --> 00:01:10.099

Melanie Loyzim: First, st the Department must determine whether a proposed landfill expansion will provide a substantial public benefit.

12

00:01:10.480 --> 00:01:16.219

Melanie Loyzim: There are specific criteria in Maine law. The dep must consider to make this decision.

13

00:01:16.760 --> 00:01:21.590

Melanie Loyzim: If the Department finds the expansion will provide a substantial public benefit.

14

00:01:21.610 --> 00:01:25.840

Melanie Loyzim: Only then can the landfill owner submit a license application.

15

00:01:25.890 --> 00:01:33.730

Melanie Loyzim: and that's when the Department will evaluate more technical aspects of the landfill expansion like engineering design and leachate

16

00:01:34.410 --> 00:01:46.170

Melanie Loyzim: the State of Maine's Bureau of General Services submitted an application for a public benefit determination, and the dep then the application as complete for processing. On June 24th of this year.

17

00:01:46.560 --> 00:01:53.099

Melanie Loyzim: Maine law only gives DEP. 60 days to issue a decision on this application.

18

00:01:53.170 --> 00:01:55.200

Melanie Loyzim: which will be August 23rd

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00:01:55.940 --> 00:02:04.230

Melanie Loyzim: Dep. Must determine if the application satisfies the criteria in main law. Title 38, section 1310, double A,

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00:02:04.430 --> 00:02:06.629

Melanie Loyzim: which are mirrored in Dep's rules.

21

00:02:07.460 --> 00:02:15.589

Melanie Loyzim: The criteria are that a landfill expansion must meet immediate short-term or long-term capacity needs of the State.

22

00:02:16.060 --> 00:02:18.219

Melanie Loyzim: Considering local and regional needs.

23

00:02:18.250 --> 00:02:20.919

Melanie Loyzim: the regional nature of the development

24

00:02:20.970 --> 00:02:26.170

Melanie Loyzim: and use of disposal capacity due to transportation, distances, and other factors.

25

00:02:26.770 --> 00:02:33.540

Melanie Loyzim: It must be consistent with the state waste management and recycling plan and promote the solid waste management. Hierarchy.

26

00:02:34.300 --> 00:02:43.310

Melanie Loyzim: It must not be inconsistent with local, regional or state waste, collection, storage, transportation, processing, or disposal.

27

00:02:43.820 --> 00:02:51.869

Melanie Loyzim: and it must not be inconsistent with ensuring environmental justice for the community in which the facility or expansion is proposed.

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00:02:52.540 --> 00:02:58.699

Melanie Loyzim: Environmental justice is defined in the law as the right to be protected from environmental pollution

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00:02:58.890 --> 00:03:10.400

Melanie Loyzim: and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment, regardless of ancestry, class disability, ethnicity, income, national origin, or religion.

30

00:03:10.860 --> 00:03:16.430

Melanie Loyzim: Environmental justice includes the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people

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00:03:16.470 --> 00:03:25.099

Melanie Loyzim: with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of waste management laws, rules, regulations and licensing decisions.

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00:03:26.150 --> 00:03:29.179

Melanie Loyzim: So today's meeting has a very specific purpose.

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00:03:29.260 --> 00:03:37.899

Melanie Loyzim: It is for Dep staff, and others to hear your comments on. Whether an expansion of the Juniper Ridge landfill provides a substantial public benefit.

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00:03:37.970 --> 00:03:40.559

Melanie Loyzim: According to the criteria. I just went over.

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00:03:41.030 --> 00:03:57.140

Melanie Loyzim: In addition to today's meeting and the meetings in Orno last week. Dep. Will also accept written public comments on the application until mid-august, which is when Staff will need to prepare a draft decision to meet that sixty-day deadline of August 23.rd

36

00:03:57.790 --> 00:04:04.100

Melanie Loyzim: Now, I'd like to turn this over to Lisa Turner from Cv. And Mahar to provide a brief presentation.

37

00:04:18.120 --> 00:04:18.899

Melanie Loyzim: And

38

00:04:20.269 --> 00:04:23.789

Melanie Loyzim: where is Ruthanne is? Gonna put it over.

39

00:04:23.880 --> 00:04:25.020

Melanie Loyzim: can you?

40

00:04:31.960 --> 00:04:35.610

Melanie Loyzim: I got on? But I didn't have a share screen option. Yeah.

41

00:04:54.490 --> 00:04:57.109

Melanie Loyzim: you go up to the top. It says, slideshow.

42

00:04:58.270 --> 00:05:00.579

Melanie Loyzim: yeah, along there. Keep going to the right

43

00:05:01.440 --> 00:05:05.493

Melanie Loyzim: further. Keep going. You're gonna move that hard.

44

00:05:06.270 --> 00:05:07.799

Melanie Loyzim: Gotta get this out of the way.

45

00:05:10.000 --> 00:05:13.980

Melanie Loyzim: Oh, wait! Hold on, Richard! Send me this one. Open up right there.

46

00:05:17.590 --> 00:05:26.370

Melanie Loyzim: all right. All right. Hi! My name is Lisa Turner. I'm an engineer with Cbn Mahar engineers, and we've been the

47

00:05:27.010 --> 00:05:32.610

Melanie Loyzim: design and construction engineers for the Juniper Ridge landfill since its inception.

48

00:05:32.970 --> 00:05:36.439

Melanie Loyzim: So I'm here to talk about the landfill today.

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00:05:38.370 --> 00:05:45.959

Melanie Loyzim: The Juniper Ridge landfill is owned by the State of Maine, and it's managed for the State by the

Bureau of General Services.

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00:05:46.150 --> 00:05:54.019

Melanie Loyzim: They have an operating services agreement with newsmie landfill operations, which is a subsidiary of Casella waste systems.

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00:05:55.950 --> 00:06:01.040

Melanie Loyzim: So Juniper Ridge Landfill, there's a picture of it from a few years ago.

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00:06:02.260 --> 00:06:08.297

Melanie Loyzim: and you can see that it's located. I don't know if my arrow show up.

53

00:06:09.390 --> 00:06:21.340

Melanie Loyzim: You can see that it's located in northern old Town. So if you go north on 95 and take Exit 199 onto Route 16, you immediately turn into the landfill, and

54

00:06:21.450 --> 00:06:24.310

Melanie Loyzim: it's it's immediate access from

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00:06:24.470 --> 00:06:25.810

Melanie Loyzim: Route 95.

56

00:06:26.040 --> 00:06:26.900

Melanie Loyzim: Next.

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00:06:28.490 --> 00:06:35.360

Melanie Loyzim: initially, the landfill was permitted for the paper mill in Old Town, which at the time was owned by James River.

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00:06:35.450 --> 00:06:42.920

Melanie Loyzim: And so in 1,996, you can see the blue area is the area that was initially permitted.

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00:06:43.960 --> 00:06:45.030

Melanie Loyzim: The

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00:06:46.810 --> 00:06:51.440

Melanie Loyzim: The mill sold the landfill to the State, and

61

00:06:52.290 --> 00:06:58.600

Melanie Loyzim: it's been operated for waste from the State, and in 2,017

62

00:06:58.860 --> 00:07:04.950

Melanie Loyzim: it was expanded, and you can see the blue area that that is the current expansion.

63

00:07:05.240 --> 00:07:07.810

Melanie Loyzim: And on the next slide

64

00:07:08.170 --> 00:07:09.640

Melanie Loyzim: you could see

65

00:07:09.720 --> 00:07:14.289

Melanie Loyzim: that blue area is the proposed expansion that we're here to talk about today.

66

00:07:15.240 --> 00:07:16.150

Melanie Loyzim: Next.

67

00:07:18.030 --> 00:07:21.119

Melanie Loyzim: the landfill has a 4 foot thick

68

00:07:21.230 --> 00:07:25.999

Melanie Loyzim: dual liner system. And so I'm going to just describe this for you if you

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00:07:26.100 --> 00:07:33.180

Melanie Loyzim: where all the words in the line and I I don't have a pointer on this, so I'm just going to describe it. So the

70

00:07:33.240 --> 00:07:37.130

Melanie Loyzim: where all the words are on the top is where the waste would go.

71

00:07:37.220 --> 00:07:39.319

Melanie Loyzim: and the

72

00:07:40.280 --> 00:07:42.280

Melanie Loyzim: the dots below that

73

00:07:42.340 --> 00:07:54.649

Melanie Loyzim: represent the sand layer. Underneath the sand is a drainage geocomposite, so that consists of 2 layers of fabric, with a plastic netting in between

74

00:07:54.690 --> 00:08:00.540

Melanie Loyzim: between the sand and the geocomposite. They will transmit all of the liquids that

75

00:08:00.600 --> 00:08:06.469

Melanie Loyzim: fall on the landfill from rainfall or snow, or that come out of the waste.

76

00:08:06.880 --> 00:08:25.690

Melanie Loyzim: It's held there by the 80 mil high density polyethylene geomembrane that's underneath it. So just for comparison, a trash bag is about 0 point 7 5 mils, and this is an 80 mil liner. So it's more than 100 times as thick as a trash bag

77

00:08:26.380 --> 00:08:32.199

Melanie Loyzim: underneath. That is a geosynthetic clay liner, and that consists of 2 layers of fabric

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00:08:32.220 --> 00:08:38.799

Melanie Loyzim: with a powdered bentonite clay in between, and we don't have that kind of clay in Maine. It comes from out west.

79

00:08:38.820 --> 00:08:40.503

Melanie Loyzim: and it's a clay that

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00:08:40.860 --> 00:08:47.500

Melanie Loyzim: when it gets wet, the clay particles actually expand, and so it makes a very.

81

00:08:47.880 --> 00:08:55.369

Melanie Loyzim: very impermeable layer underneath the geomembrane, which is also very impermeable

82

00:08:55.390 --> 00:08:59.480

Melanie Loyzim: underneath that is, 12 inches of compacted native clay.

83

00:08:59.960 --> 00:09:04.439

Melanie Loyzim: that is, the leachate collection and primary liner system.

84

00:09:05.240 --> 00:09:25.439

Melanie Loyzim: Should anything make its way through all of that, it ends up in the leak detection system underneath. So that's another 12 inches of sand, another drainage geocomposite, another plastic liner, and another 12 inch layer of native clay to give you the leak detection and the secondary liner system.

85

00:09:27.950 --> 00:09:32.160

Melanie Loyzim: the towns must provide for the disposal of waste. This is state law.

86

00:09:33.240 --> 00:09:35.629

Melanie Loyzim: So in 1989,

87

00:09:35.980 --> 00:09:37.220

Melanie Loyzim: the State

88

00:09:37.260 --> 00:09:42.970

Melanie Loyzim: made it a law that each municipality shall provide solid waste disposal services

89

00:09:45.130 --> 00:09:47.309

Melanie Loyzim: in 90 93

90

00:09:48.160 --> 00:09:56.750

Melanie Loyzim: State made a law that unlicensed and licensed open municipal, solid, waste landfills that have not been closed must be closed.

91

00:09:57.160 --> 00:10:15.010

Melanie Loyzim: So with that law about 400 town dumps were closed, and if anyone remembers the town dump, many of them were in gravel pits or next to a river, they were uncontrolled. Closing them was a good idea.

92

00:10:15.640 --> 00:10:20.330

Melanie Loyzim: A few towns retained an acceptable modern landfill.

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00:10:20.380 --> 00:10:27.990

Melanie Loyzim: but the State decided that we were going to have a regional waste disposal policy rather than every town managing it on their own.

94

00:10:31.230 --> 00:10:44.970

Melanie Loyzim: So some of the towns that retained their own landfills include mid coast, which is in Rockport. That's 4 Towns. They only take Cdd. Which stands for construction and demolition debris.

95

00:10:45.330 --> 00:10:51.399

Melanie Loyzim: Rockland, which is also Cdd only, and I just read in the paper that they're closing.

96

00:10:51.770 --> 00:10:54.829

Melanie Loyzim: Bath takes their own municipal solid waste.

97

00:10:55.220 --> 00:11:01.840

Melanie Loyzim: There's several smaller construction and damage debris landfills throughout the State.

98

00:11:01.910 --> 00:11:03.859

Melanie Loyzim: Very small landfills.

99

00:11:04.060 --> 00:11:13.969

Melanie Loyzim: Augusta takes its own municipal, solid waste, and then aristic waste solutions which has 2 landfills, one in Fort Fairfield and one in Crest Isle.

100

00:11:14.760 --> 00:11:19.580

Melanie Loyzim: Altogether. Those only account for about 11% of the waste

101

00:11:20.290 --> 00:11:28.399

Melanie Loyzim: you can pay to dispose of waste in a variety of landfills. Heartland takes sludge and construction and demo debris

102

00:11:29.130 --> 00:11:45.410

Melanie Loyzim: mid main Waste Action Corporation, which has an incinerator in Auburn and a landfill in Lewiston, takes a little less than 5%. And this is all based on the tonnage disposed of in Maine in 2022, which is the most recent statewide numbers available.

103

00:11:47.010 --> 00:11:48.060

Melanie Loyzim: Perk

104

00:11:48.240 --> 00:11:53.949

Melanie Loyzim: Knobscoot, Energy Recovery Corporation, which is now known as

105

00:11:54.280 --> 00:11:58.840

Melanie Loyzim: EPEC. Which is eagle point, energy recovery.

106

00:12:00.700 --> 00:12:06.500

Melanie Loyzim: which is the Orrington facility that the better known as the incinerator in Orrington.

107

00:12:06.900 --> 00:12:16.349

Melanie Loyzim: used to landfill at Juniper Ridge. They've been closed since May of 2023, but in 2022 they were a little over 5% of the total waste.

108

00:12:16.790 --> 00:12:20.720

Melanie Loyzim: Eco, Maine and South Portland has an incinerator and landfill

109

00:12:20.740 --> 00:12:24.069

Melanie Loyzim: crossroads in Norge Walk is a landfill.

110

00:12:24.260 --> 00:12:26.419

Melanie Loyzim: All of those together

111

00:12:26.670 --> 00:12:30.420

Melanie Loyzim: represents about 38% of the waste in the State

112

00:12:30.590 --> 00:12:39.650

Melanie Loyzim: juniper Ridge takes 51.3%. So you can see it's taking more than all the other pay to dispose facilities.

113

00:12:39.830 --> 00:12:52.259

Melanie Loyzim: There was a fiber right in Hamden, and they've been closed since 2022, so they were doing a lot of recycling and digestion of waste, but they've been closed as well as well as Perk.

114

00:12:54.780 --> 00:13:01.800

Melanie Loyzim: Every county in Maine uses the Juniper Ridge landfill, so you can see the dark green.

115

00:13:01.990 --> 00:13:07.609

Melanie Loyzim: The landfill is located in Penobscot County. They're one of the

116

00:13:07.770 --> 00:13:14.029

Melanie Loyzim: counties that disposes of the most material in Juniper Ridge, the second being Cumberland County.

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00:13:14.060 --> 00:13:25.909

Melanie Loyzim: Somewhat less than that are Kennebec and Anderscogen County somewhat less than that are York and Sagitta Hawk, but every county takes some waste to Juniper Ridge.

118

00:13:28.380 --> 00:13:32.120

Melanie Loyzim: It is critical to the State's ten-year waste disposal needs

119

00:13:34.260 --> 00:13:42.090

Melanie Loyzim: at 51.3 of the waste disposed of in Maine. Juniper Bridge. Landfill is critical to meeting the State's ten-year waste management needs.

120

00:13:42.480 --> 00:13:48.650

Melanie Loyzim: Juniper Ridge supports the other facilities by taking bypass waste. So that's waste that

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00:13:48.770 --> 00:13:50.780

Melanie Loyzim: you know. When the plant has

122

00:13:50.850 --> 00:14:02.820

Melanie Loyzim: planned or unplanned shutdowns, and the waste needs to go someplace. Sometimes they can store it and wait and burn it in their incinerator. Sometimes they can't. It goes to Juniper Ridge.

123

00:14:02.960 --> 00:14:10.020

Melanie Loyzim: It takes some of the ash from these facilities and other residuals. Essentially, it takes what's left over.

124

00:14:10.500 --> 00:14:17.359

Melanie Loyzim: Juniper Ridge is the last resort for many towns that have agreements with Perk or fiber right since

they've closed

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00:14:17.990 --> 00:14:24.680

Melanie Loyzim: without the expansion. Every other paid disposed facility would need to take more than double what they take now.

126

00:14:24.930 --> 00:14:28.169

Melanie Loyzim: So the expansion of Juniper Ridge landfill is a public need.

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00:14:29.660 --> 00:14:31.910

Melanie Loyzim: How soon is the capacity needed?

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00:14:33.510 --> 00:14:52.969

Melanie Loyzim: So here you can see by year 2021, 22, and 23 are all actual numbers, obviously past, that is estimated. But you can see that it's about a million yards a year of available capacity a million yards less every year, and we expect that'll continue.

129

00:14:53.100 --> 00:14:58.100

Melanie Loyzim: And so by early 2028, there is no more room at Juniper Ridge.

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00:14:59.820 --> 00:15:13.649

Melanie Loyzim: If we look at all of those landfills that I previously listed, you can see 2022. You know the last numbers that are available. And assuming the same usage from 2022 going forward

131

00:15:13.670 --> 00:15:24.339

Melanie Loyzim: by 2032, we've run out of landfill space in the entire State. And I. I can definitely tell you that from a landfill permitting

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00:15:24.400 --> 00:15:27.529

Melanie Loyzim: standpoint 2032 is tomorrow.

133

00:15:27.730 --> 00:15:31.890

Melanie Loyzim: So there's it takes a long time to permit any changes.

134

00:15:32.070 --> 00:15:32.970

Melanie Loyzim: Next

135

00:15:34.460 --> 00:15:40.969

Melanie Loyzim: Juniper Ridge landfill, including the expansion, is consistent with the State's solid waste management. Hierarchy.

136

00:15:45.250 --> 00:15:53.610

Melanie Loyzim: The landfill provides a place to dispose of materials that cannot be processed by incinerators, volume reduction facilities or recycling programs.

137

00:15:54.780 --> 00:16:08.659

Melanie Loyzim: The towns are doing the best they can to get rid of material by other means, but we all know we all do our recycling, and we know there's also the bag of garbage, not everything can be recycled.

138

00:16:09.390 --> 00:16:21.179

Melanie Loyzim: It goes to get burned. But you put wood in the wood stove, and you take ash out. There's always residual. You can burn the waste, but there's still ash left, and then there's other things that just

139

00:16:21.340 --> 00:16:24.080

Melanie Loyzim: aren't ever going to be remotely recycled.

140

00:16:24.160 --> 00:16:25.190

Melanie Loyzim: So

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00:16:26.260 --> 00:16:28.830

Melanie Loyzim: the landfill takes care of those items

142

00:16:29.020 --> 00:16:39.300

Melanie Loyzim: it provides backup when the facilities aren't operating. We talked about perc and fiberite, but they've also taken material from Mwaq and Ecomane. When they had shutdowns.

143

00:16:40.410 --> 00:16:47.449

Melanie Loyzim: the landfill provides a place for material that cannot be used as feedstock for waste to energy facilities or composted.

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00:16:47.990 --> 00:16:59.460

Melanie Loyzim: it will produce and distribute renewable natural gas. They've built a renewable natural gas plant, and it's in the final stages of getting started.

145

00:17:00.050 --> 00:17:20.309

Melanie Loyzim: and separately Casella runs their 0 sort recycling operation. So Casella is also involved in waste reduction by running the 0 sort recycling operation that a lot of towns use. They recycle construction and demo debris. But there's always things that are left over.

146

00:17:22.119 --> 00:17:26.039

Melanie Loyzim: So what type of waste is accepted at the Juniper Ridge landfill.

147

00:17:27.380 --> 00:17:31.249

Melanie Loyzim: There is a long and eclectic list of

148

00:17:31.370 --> 00:17:37.329

Melanie Loyzim: materials things that you don't really think about. Leather scrap waist.

149

00:17:38.490 --> 00:17:46.129

Melanie Loyzim: catch basin grit. It's it's a very long list. This is. Half of it. On the next page

150

00:17:47.870 --> 00:17:55.230

Melanie Loyzim: is the other half, and you can see it's just a wide filter press cake and collagen scrapings.

151

00:17:55.280 --> 00:18:01.830

Melanie Loyzim: I don't really know what else anyone would do with those as an example. There's just a lot of different materials.

152

00:18:02.000 --> 00:18:03.790

Melanie Loyzim: What it doesn't take

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00:18:04.910 --> 00:18:13.119

Melanie Loyzim: is hazardous waste. So anything that's defined by Federal rules as a hazardous waste is not going to Juniper Ridge.

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00:18:13.690 --> 00:18:27.520

Melanie Loyzim: It does not take municipal solid waste, except when another facility is unable to process it. So your town cannot contract with Juniper Ridge directly to take the garbage it's got to be.

155

00:18:27.530 --> 00:18:34.180

Melanie Loyzim: We've got to try and deal with it in some other manner first, st and the residuals or the bypass go to Juniper Ridge.

156

00:18:34.730 --> 00:18:36.290

Melanie Loyzim: Juniper Ridge.

157

00:18:36.330 --> 00:18:42.030

Melanie Loyzim: like we've said, provides disposal reliability for many towns when their primary facilities go down

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00:18:42.360 --> 00:18:48.820

Melanie Loyzim: and given the processing issues at Perk and fiber. Right, juniper Ridge landfill is the last resort for many towns.

159

00:18:50.940 --> 00:19:03.070

Melanie Loyzim: Wastewater treatment. Plant sludge has become an issue in April of 2022. The State legislature banned the land spreading of wastewater treatment plant sludge, which is where a lot of it went.

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00:19:03.230 --> 00:19:09.719

Melanie Loyzim: And so because of this, 90% of means wastewater treatment. Plant sludge now goes to Juniper Ridge, landfill.

161

00:19:11.280 --> 00:19:15.470

Melanie Loyzim: juniper. Rich landfill is consistent with the State's environmental justice goals.

162

00:19:17.350 --> 00:19:24.050

Melanie Loyzim: Juniper Ridge has a long history of dependable operations in compliance with environmental and safety regulations.

163

00:19:24.690 --> 00:19:29.449

Melanie Loyzim: Groundwater and surface water are tested 3 times a year to ensure compliance.

164

00:19:29.780 --> 00:19:35.689

Melanie Loyzim: The air emissions are constantly monitored at the property boundary.

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00:19:36.240 --> 00:19:44.110

Melanie Loyzim: The host communities which include Old town and Alton receive 2.6 million in host community benefits.

166

00:19:44.320 --> 00:19:55.330

Melanie Loyzim: and the neighbors of the landfill receive property, tax reimbursement and a property value guarantee that last is not something that's required. That's something Costella has chosen to do for their neighbors.

167

00:19:57.320 --> 00:20:09.070

Melanie Loyzim: Casella will conduct more public informational meetings during the design process than required to ensure that the public has an opportunity to understand the project and know how to participate in the licensing process.

168

00:20:09.540 --> 00:20:25.730

Melanie Loyzim: and Casella is intending to provide funding for area scholarship opportunities, and this would be in the same way that they currently do around a landfill in New York that the State of New York owns and Casella runs.

169

00:20:28.060 --> 00:20:31.749

Melanie Loyzim: the State has an obligation to provide for waste disposal.

170

00:20:34.290 --> 00:20:35.199

Melanie Loyzim: So

171

00:20:36.660 --> 00:20:39.559

Melanie Loyzim: this is another law. 1989.

172

00:20:39.650 --> 00:20:45.669

Melanie Loyzim: The Department may not approve an application for a new commercial, solid, waste, disposal, facility.

173

00:20:45.830 --> 00:20:47.650

Melanie Loyzim: And so

174

00:20:48.090 --> 00:20:50.900

Melanie Loyzim: with that with by banning

175

00:20:51.270 --> 00:20:57.289

Melanie Loyzim: new commercial facilities, the State essentially took over the responsibility for waste disposal.

176

00:20:57.990 --> 00:20:58.830

Melanie Loyzim: Next.

177

00:20:59.590 --> 00:21:01.489

Melanie Loyzim: the expansion is needed.

178

00:21:02.300 --> 00:21:12.549

Melanie Loyzim: and a couple quotes from a couple of published reports. This is from the main Materials Management Plan, published by dep. In January of this year.

179

00:21:13.000 --> 00:21:19.750

Melanie Loyzim: Statewide, Maine appears to have adequate capacity for at least 10 years before several landfill facilities reach their capacity.

180

00:21:19.860 --> 00:21:27.590

Melanie Loyzim: This assumes, however, that an expansion license application is both received by and approved by the Department for the Jrl. Facility.

181

00:21:27.800 --> 00:21:31.649

Melanie Loyzim: As to the date of this report, the Department has received A. PIR.

182

00:21:31.830 --> 00:21:34.780

Melanie Loyzim: Preliminary information reports PIR.

183

00:21:34.810 --> 00:21:49.199

Melanie Loyzim: From the Juniper Ridge landfill for a future expansion. The loss of Jrl. As a disposal facility would create catastrophic capacity issues as it receives over 50% of all material landfill in Maine annually.

184

00:21:51.650 --> 00:22:04.660

Melanie Loyzim: Brown and Caldwell. It's a consulting firm. Did a study relative to the wastewater Treatment plant sludge that was called the Biosolids Report, and that was published in December.

185

00:22:05.010 --> 00:22:13.679

Melanie Loyzim: and so independently they stated that, without the additional capacity from an expansion at Jrl. The State faces a dire situation.

186

00:22:13.750 --> 00:22:20.399

Melanie Loyzim: They recommended the State work with Cassell to ensure that an application to explain Jrl. Is submitted as soon as possible.

187

00:22:20.510 --> 00:22:48.410

Melanie Loyzim: and they concluded that expansion is critical. If Jrl. Were not expanded, there will be no main landfill with enough capacity to meet solid waste needs, and much of the biosolids produced will be sent out of state and greatly increased cost to utilities and ratepayers, and as Maine doesn't accept out-of-state waste. Many of the neighboring States are beginning to not accept out-of-state waste, so that trucking cost becomes much more extreme at that point.

188

00:22:49.300 --> 00:22:56.389

Melanie Loyzim: In summary, the expansion of the Juniper Ridge landfill meets a public need and therefore provides a public benefit.

189

00:22:56.560 --> 00:22:59.659

Melanie Loyzim: is critical. To meeting the State's tenure. Waste goals

190

00:22:59.920 --> 00:23:02.979

Melanie Loyzim: is the landfill of last resort for many towns

191

00:23:03.080 --> 00:23:15.059

Melanie Loyzim: and helps. The towns meet their legal responsibility to provide for waste disposal, and helps the State meets its obligation to provide for waste disposal. Now that no new commercial facilities can be licensed

192

00:23:15.930 --> 00:23:20.129

Melanie Loyzim: with that, I will give it back to William. Thank you. Thank you very much.

193

00:23:26.500 --> 00:23:31.620

Melanie Loyzim: Alright. So now I'd like to begin the public comment portion of this meeting.

194

00:23:32.350 --> 00:23:38.750

Melanie Loyzim: We do not have very many people who have registered so I am not going to propose

195

00:23:38.960 --> 00:23:54.620

Melanie Loyzim: a short time limit. But I would ask for those of you who are presenting your comments orally today, if you could limit your comments to about 5 to 10 min. That would be consistent with the amount of time that persons

had at the or no meetings last week.

196

00:23:55.000 --> 00:24:03.700

Melanie Loyzim: Please try to focus your oral comments today on any points you think might also be helpful for others who are putting together their own written comments.

197

00:24:04.050 --> 00:24:12.959

Melanie Loyzim: You can submit, however much information you would like in writing. After this meeting again, we'll be taking written comments until about mid August

198

00:24:13.900 --> 00:24:26.849

Melanie Loyzim: as department staff. Review the comments we receive your oral comments that you provide today. The comments that were presented last week, and the comments that are submitted in writing are all given equal weight.

199

00:24:26.950 --> 00:24:34.749

Melanie Loyzim: So if you're not able to cover everything you'd like during your oral delivery today. Please feel free to submit the remainder of your comments in writing.

200

00:24:35.250 --> 00:24:43.460

Melanie Loyzim: And so with that I'm going to ask Ruth Ann to tell me who's our first.st She is going to promote our 1st person to panelist.

201

00:24:43.590 --> 00:24:44.760

Melanie Loyzim: fluffy animal.

202

00:24:44.980 --> 00:24:46.520

Melanie Loyzim: Be Jackie Elliot.

203

00:24:56.340 --> 00:24:57.780

Jackie Elliott: Hello! Can you hear me?

204

00:24:57.780 --> 00:25:00.770

Melanie Loyzim: Yes, we can hear you, and we can see you. Please go ahead.

205

00:25:01.000 --> 00:25:02.210

Jackie Elliott: Thank you very much.

206

00:25:02.787 --> 00:25:06.940

Jackie Elliott: Good morning. My name is Jackie Elliot. I live in Waterboro.

207

00:25:07.420 --> 00:25:19.819

Jackie Elliott: and I would like to begin by acknowledging that I have experienced many cordial and helpful interactions

with Main Dep staff members, and that is much appreciated.

208

00:25:20.230 --> 00:25:34.220

Jackie Elliott: But I must express my opposition to the decision made by the Department to preclude impacted and interested citizens from providing oral testimony virtually at the July 16th meetings in or and O,

209

00:25:34.980 --> 00:25:39.859

Jackie Elliott: this virtual opportunity for oral comments is appreciated.

210

00:25:40.160 --> 00:25:50.160

Jackie Elliott: but it does fail to rescind the disenfranchisement of the rights of citizens excluded from oral testimony. At those meetings. On the 16th

211

00:25:50.690 --> 00:25:53.069

Jackie Elliott: going forward, I would urge

212

00:25:53.090 --> 00:25:56.969

Jackie Elliott: Main Dp. To make the necessary investments

213

00:25:57.040 --> 00:26:06.309

Jackie Elliott: to honor citizens' rights and ensure for full participation in public meetings and hearings. At the time those events are actually held.

214

00:26:08.040 --> 00:26:09.960

Jackie Elliott: I'll begin my comments

215

00:26:10.600 --> 00:26:16.140

Jackie Elliott: by saying that in order to not perpetuate environmental injustice.

216

00:26:16.200 --> 00:26:21.400

Jackie Elliott: I would ask that you, Commissioner Loisam, deny the public benefit, determination.

217

00:26:22.130 --> 00:26:23.420

Jackie Elliott: application.

218

00:26:24.630 --> 00:26:30.079

Jackie Elliott: and I would go on to say that environmental justice must be the prominent consideration

219

00:26:30.120 --> 00:26:32.760

Jackie Elliott: of this public benefit determination

220

00:26:33.170 --> 00:26:37.259

Jackie Elliott: for any proposed expansion of the Juniper Ridge landfill.

221

00:26:38.240 --> 00:26:41.809

Jackie Elliott: I can appreciate the presentation

222

00:26:41.890 --> 00:26:43.869

Jackie Elliott: about the liner

223

00:26:44.090 --> 00:26:46.569

Jackie Elliott: of the land flow that was just presented.

224

00:26:46.830 --> 00:26:49.930

Jackie Elliott: But I'll interject a little truth about landfills.

225

00:26:50.720 --> 00:26:54.580

Jackie Elliott: regardless of engineering and hydraulic reports.

226

00:26:54.880 --> 00:27:01.299

Jackie Elliott: What must frame the conversation we're having is the fact that all lined landfills eventually leak.

227

00:27:01.690 --> 00:27:03.829

Jackie Elliott: They leap toxic leaf jay

228

00:27:03.960 --> 00:27:12.669

Jackie Elliott: and toxic precipitation runoff from the landfill can overwhelm containment systems and threaten surface and groundwater.

229

00:27:14.600 --> 00:27:17.120

Jackie Elliott: I will say that.

230

00:27:17.960 --> 00:27:22.889

Jackie Elliott: I was a little disturbed when I was watching the meetings on the 16.th

231

00:27:24.120 --> 00:27:26.990

Jackie Elliott: My opinion is, it is demissive

232

00:27:27.050 --> 00:27:32.859

Jackie Elliott: and insulting, for the members of Penobscot nation, living on their ancestral lands.

233

00:27:33.120 --> 00:27:39.949

Jackie Elliott: towered over with juniper ridges, Toxic Mountain, threatening the Penaz got river and the watershed

234

00:27:40.740 --> 00:27:44.469

Jackie Elliott: to be so subjected to Ms. Turner's comments.

235

00:27:45.019 --> 00:27:49.410

Jackie Elliott: Referring to the photograph of Juniper ridge that is encroaching

236

00:27:49.970 --> 00:27:55.420

Jackie Elliott: on Penobscot lands and refer to it as beautiful.

237

00:27:57.550 --> 00:28:09.659

Jackie Elliott: And it's disconcerting as well watching media media coverage of Jeff Weld, proclaiming that Casella's record for environmental management of Juniper Ridge has been within depelines.

238

00:28:10.510 --> 00:28:13.780

Jackie Elliott: Casella's environmental record across the region

239

00:28:13.840 --> 00:28:17.190

Jackie Elliott: is fraught with documented infractions

240

00:28:18.930 --> 00:28:27.110

Jackie Elliott: and Well's assertion for me begs the question is Casella's Juniper Ridge management record? Stella is claimed.

241

00:28:27.700 --> 00:28:31.530

Jackie Elliott: or are the standards low and oversight lacking?

242

00:28:31.710 --> 00:28:33.760

Jackie Elliott: I just feel with the record

243

00:28:34.350 --> 00:28:36.360

Jackie Elliott: that something is not adding up

244

00:28:36.930 --> 00:28:43.800

Jackie Elliott: May of 2023, Junip Juniper Ridge neighbors endured a fire of yet unknown origin.

245

00:28:43.940 --> 00:28:50.210

Jackie Elliott: spewing toxic dioxin into the air, and depositing Toxic Ash on the surrounding environs.

246

00:28:50.330 --> 00:28:54.780

Jackie Elliott: including the Penobscot nation's annual fiddlehead harvest.

247

00:28:55.670 --> 00:29:00.550

Jackie Elliott: It should be noted that fires can contribute to other landfill failures.

248

00:29:02.600 --> 00:29:10.510

Jackie Elliott: A great concern is the fact that state the State and Casella have embarked on a potentially dangerous disposal model at Juniper Ridge

249

00:29:10.970 --> 00:29:17.359

Jackie Elliott: that combines gaseous sludge, bulky waste and construction and demolition debris.

250

00:29:18.360 --> 00:29:25.560

Jackie Elliott: This creates pockets in the landfill that hold gas, increasing the risk for, difficult to extinguish fires

251

00:29:25.870 --> 00:29:32.380

Jackie Elliott: that could damage the liner and gas collection and methane management systems installed in the landfill.

252

00:29:33.600 --> 00:29:37.989

Jackie Elliott: Landfill gas systems. Construction and operation

253

00:29:38.560 --> 00:29:43.570

Jackie Elliott: like that are occurring at the landfill can also add to the risk of fires.

254

00:29:45.300 --> 00:29:48.879

Jackie Elliott: All of this furthers the risk to Juniper Ridge. Neighbors.

255

00:29:50.280 --> 00:29:57.379

Jackie Elliott: residents have asked that Casella provide an alert system to notify when there are issues at the landfill.

256

00:29:57.910 --> 00:30:03.610

Jackie Elliott: and that should be a requirement for any approval of a public benefit determination

257

00:30:05.620 --> 00:30:13.319

Jackie Elliott: just for some background. There are ongoing violation issues at Casella's Bethlehem, New Hampshire Landfill.

258

00:30:13.710 --> 00:30:19.539

Jackie Elliott: where pfas contaminated leachate spills and runoff threaten the Ammonusic river and watershed

259

00:30:19.980 --> 00:30:36.609

Jackie Elliott: Casella's landfills and Bethlehem and coventry Vermont have both had overflows of the leachate collection system and released toxic, leachate to the ground and surface waters. 150,000 gallons of toxic leachate was released.

260

00:30:36.720 --> 00:30:38.659

Jackie Elliott: I think, about a year ago.

261

00:30:38.920 --> 00:30:41.030

Jackie Elliott: also in Bethlehem.

262

00:30:42.760 --> 00:30:48.640

Jackie Elliott: Here, in Maine, juniper ridges, operations have harmed the Penobscot nation for more than 2 decades.

263

00:30:49.170 --> 00:30:53.750

Jackie Elliott: millions of gallons of insufficiently treated leachate containing

264

00:30:53.780 --> 00:30:56.220

Jackie Elliott: pfas and other dangerous toxics

265

00:30:56.330 --> 00:30:59.280

Jackie Elliott: have been discharged into the Penobscot River.

266

00:31:00.020 --> 00:31:07.840

Jackie Elliott: The Penobscot nation considers the river a sacred relative, and it is part of their rights, spirituality and sustenance.

267

00:31:09.210 --> 00:31:15.630

Jackie Elliott: Penobscot nation's environmental justice rights mandated by Maine law, are being violated

268

00:31:16.100 --> 00:31:30.959

Jackie Elliott: because they suffer the injustice of the inability to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment, regardless of ancestry, class disability, ethnicity, income, national origin, or religion.

269

00:31:31.950 --> 00:31:40.819

Jackie Elliott: Members of Penobscot nation can no longer eat fish from the river due to the highly dangerous levels of Pfas river chemicals

270

00:31:40.930 --> 00:31:43.760

Jackie Elliott: that are linked to many adverse health impacts

271

00:31:43.970 --> 00:31:50.369

Jackie Elliott: that include liver and testicular cancers, immunotoxicity and reduced immune function.

272

00:31:50.460 --> 00:31:56.670

Jackie Elliott: fertility and reproductive harms, thyroid dysfunction and other Endocan disruptions.

273

00:31:58.870 --> 00:32:01.560

Jackie Elliott: Kathy Paul stood before you

274

00:32:01.830 --> 00:32:04.199

Jackie Elliott: on the July 16, th

275

00:32:05.010 --> 00:32:11.239

Jackie Elliott: and heartbreakingly express the reality of Juniper Ridge's Ridge's toxic pollution

276

00:32:11.550 --> 00:32:16.730

Jackie Elliott: from the perspective of her lived experience on her ancestral lands.

277

00:32:17.860 --> 00:32:20.839

Jackie Elliott: She stated. She feels like she is dying

278

00:32:22.160 --> 00:32:28.399

Jackie Elliott: to my ears. That was the oppressed scream of environmental injustice.

279

00:32:30.960 --> 00:32:37.359

Jackie Elliott: I think we can say that the Penobscot River and watershed is a sacrifice zone. As things stand right now.

280

00:32:37.740 --> 00:32:51.350

Jackie Elliott: Juniper Juniper Ridge's operations combined with the threats from 3 State, owned landfills and a closed private landfill located in the Knobscoot River watershed that surrounds Penobscot Indian nation lands

281

00:32:51.570 --> 00:32:56.399

Jackie Elliott: compounds ruinous impacts on an already overburdened population.

282

00:32:57.240 --> 00:33:12.960

Jackie Elliott: The current public benefit determination, application does not have an adequate assessment of the impacts of the millions of gallons of leachate effluent, discharged into the Penobscot River and the cumulative impacts on the Penobscot people.

283

00:33:13.970 --> 00:33:22.440

Jackie Elliott: Maine has no requirements to treat or remove pfas from the Leachate as Calcellar is required to do in Vermont.

284

00:33:23.720 --> 00:33:37.340

Jackie Elliott: Dan Cuzneros, the Water Resources Program Manager for the Penobscot Indian Nation states that tests have showed Leachate contained 20 times as much pfas as the State allows for drinking water.

285

00:33:37.720 --> 00:33:42.679

Jackie Elliott: and he noted how that the current treatment does not remove these harmful chemicals.

286

00:33:43.250 --> 00:33:51.770

Jackie Elliott: The penabs got rid of her, which is a source of both sustenance and cultural identity for the tribal members is greatly impacted.

287

00:33:52.690 --> 00:33:57.470

Jackie Elliott: He stated that clean water is of utmost importance to protect

288

00:33:58.010 --> 00:34:00.730

Jackie Elliott: the practices of his nation.

289

00:34:01.150 --> 00:34:06.800

Jackie Elliott: He says, these are not recreational uses, but legally protected rights.

290

00:34:09.060 --> 00:34:12.580

Jackie Elliott: The main department of Environmental Protection's Mission States

291

00:34:12.960 --> 00:34:21.000

Jackie Elliott: legislative mandate directs DEP. To prevent, abate and control pollution of the air, water, and land.

292

00:34:21.340 --> 00:34:27.990

Jackie Elliott: The charge is to preserve, improve, and prevent diminution of the natural resources of the State.

293

00:34:28.770 --> 00:34:36.569

Jackie Elliott: Casella's questionable manager of management of Juniper Ridge has diminished the quality of the lived experience for their neighbors.

294

00:34:36.659 --> 00:34:42.829

Jackie Elliott: and the economic costs of those harms have been externalized onto the members of those communities

295

00:34:42.980 --> 00:34:48.920

Jackie Elliott: with Lord property values and increased costs for healthcare, and Casella confirms that with their

296

00:34:49.179 --> 00:34:51.560

Jackie Elliott: pledged to meet

297

00:34:51.790 --> 00:34:55.909

Jackie Elliott: the property value piece of things.

298

00:34:57.380 --> 00:35:05.890

Jackie Elliott: It raises the question, how do any of these incidents comply with operations within main depines?

299

00:35:07.260 --> 00:35:20.520

Jackie Elliott: There is no public benefit for someone unable to enjoy being outside on their property, because the odors and pollution from the landfill are so caustic and oppressive they cannot breathe, and their eyes and mucus membranes burn.

300

00:35:20.840 --> 00:35:32.609

Jackie Elliott: Residents of Indian Island have testified that the odors from the landfill linger on their clothing after being outside, and they worry that the pollution causing those odors might be affecting their children's health.

301

00:35:33.430 --> 00:35:39.549

Jackie Elliott: Other residents are associating the onset of new health issues with operations at the landfill.

302

00:35:40.990 --> 00:35:48.410

Jackie Elliott: An argument can be made that every citizen has an inalienable right to clean air and clean water

303

00:35:48.480 --> 00:35:51.079

Jackie Elliott: and a safe environment in which to live.

304

00:35:51.510 --> 00:36:03.330

Jackie Elliott: And, conversely, there is no inherent right of an operator or operation, a legislative or regulatory authority to perpetuate or license activity

305

00:36:03.340 --> 00:36:08.019

Jackie Elliott: that has potential to despoil the environment and peril the public health

306

00:36:08.050 --> 00:36:12.200

Jackie Elliott: or otherwise impair the safety of a community.

307

00:36:12.830 --> 00:36:14.630

Jackie Elliott: The rights of Juniper Ridge.

308

00:36:14.690 --> 00:36:25.299

Jackie Elliott: which is most impacted. Neighbors must occupy a space of priority and influence, and the consideration of this public benefit determination.

309

00:36:26.760 --> 00:36:50.459

Jackie Elliott: The Commissioner is required to conduct a review independent of any contract or agreement between the State and Casella, and such a review should include an assessment of cumulative environmental impacts and potential adverse public health outcomes from Juniper Ridge's operations for Old Town Alton and Pubscot nation communities.

310

00:36:51.240 --> 00:36:57.970

Jackie Elliott: The value of human life is the proper basis for environmental and public health regulation.

311

00:36:58.010 --> 00:37:01.159

Jackie Elliott: and there is no acceptable preventable death.

312

00:37:03.520 --> 00:37:14.440

Jackie Elliott: Main dep cannot defend the trajectory of waste landfill at Juniper Ridge as satisfying the goals of the main State waste hierarchy.

313

00:37:15.120 --> 00:37:23.299

Jackie Elliott: The State has failed to exercise its position as a market participant to conserve disposal capacity at the landfill.

314

00:37:23.720 --> 00:37:32.460

Jackie Elliott: Casella has influenced legislation and regulation, so that imported waste. Yes, Maine does import waste

315

00:37:33.440 --> 00:37:42.380

Jackie Elliott: processed in Maine is magically accounted as waste generated in Maine, and therefore can be legally landfilled at Juniper Ridge.

316

00:37:42.730 --> 00:37:50.889

Jackie Elliott: The major supplier of the construction and demolition debris, most of which is from Massachusetts, and landfill at Juniper Ridge

317

00:37:51.320 --> 00:37:57.989

Jackie Elliott: is processed at resource. In Lewiston. A processing facility once owned by Costella.

318

00:37:59.060 --> 00:38:05.320

Jackie Elliott: An added benefit is that Casella gets to use the toxic ground of construction and demolition. Debris finds

319

00:38:05.350 --> 00:38:17.190

Jackie Elliott: from resource to all uses, alternate daily cover on the landfill, and those ground up ground up finds increase the bioavailability of inherent toxins

320

00:38:17.270 --> 00:38:21.149

Jackie Elliott: to reach the air, land, water, and our bodies.

321

00:38:21.560 --> 00:38:27.439

Jackie Elliott: and as a bonus Casella gets paid to use those toxic fines as alternate daily cover.

322

00:38:27.620 --> 00:38:33.040

Jackie Elliott: and both Casella and resource get to account it all as recycling.

323

00:38:33.930 --> 00:38:41.910

Jackie Elliott: A couple of years ago citizens did manage to get some restrictions in place on out-of-state waste going to Juniper Ridge.

324

00:38:42.260 --> 00:38:49.630

Jackie Elliott: but Sella hyped up in an emergency at the landfill and managed to partially roll back those regulations in the next legislative.

325

00:38:49.770 --> 00:38:51.780

Jackie Elliott: next legislative session.

326

00:38:52.180 --> 00:38:53.650

Jackie Elliott: And so it goes.

327

00:38:55.370 --> 00:39:08.450

Jackie Elliott: Main Dep's lack of planning build out of infrastructure development of programs and implementation of proven methods to reduce the volume of volume of wasted resources on the front end

328

00:39:08.560 --> 00:39:13.809

Jackie Elliott: has put us in this extreme position of unsustainable landfill expansion.

329

00:39:14.460 --> 00:39:26.499

Jackie Elliott: statewide efforts to reduce the quantity of waste generated requiring disposal have lacked commitment planning dedicated resources and staffing for program implementation

330

00:39:26.550 --> 00:39:33.240

Jackie Elliott: and have averted serious consideration of a just transition to 0 waste goals

331

00:39:34.120 --> 00:39:54.510

Jackie Elliott: pressure on disposal capacity near and long term intensifies the need to shift the focus to front end. Choices that are less extractive, less toxic support, less overall consumption eliminate needlessly wasteful outcomes and foster equity and justice and policy decisions.

332

00:39:55.280 --> 00:40:00.630

Jackie Elliott: Dependence on Mega for profit corporations and magic tech

333

00:40:00.850 --> 00:40:05.059

Jackie Elliott: to deal with materials management on the back end is misguided.

334

00:40:05.090 --> 00:40:18.169

Jackie Elliott: ineffective, and unsustainable, and misallocates resources away from available solutions, and continues to build on the existing toxic legacy of current methods.

335

00:40:19.310 --> 00:40:24.539

Jackie Elliott: Our policy. Actions and choices will flow from what we value

336

00:40:24.790 --> 00:40:36.520

Jackie Elliott: and bottom line policy and regulation are about the quality of life. People get to live today, and whether there is a future to pass on to succeeding generations.

337

00:40:38.040 --> 00:40:42.490

Jackie Elliott: This public benefit determination, application must be denied.

338

00:40:43.040 --> 00:40:47.940

Jackie Elliott: and I thank you for. And considering my comments, and I'd just like to close with some words

339

00:40:48.080 --> 00:40:49.780

Jackie Elliott: for Martin Luther King.

340

00:40:50.880 --> 00:40:54.940

Jackie Elliott: We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today

341

00:40:55.320 --> 00:40:58.889

Jackie Elliott: we are confronted with the fierce urgency of now

342

00:40:59.290 --> 00:41:03.130

Jackie Elliott: in this unfolding conundrum of life and history.

343

00:41:03.140 --> 00:41:06.610

Jackie Elliott: there is such a thing as being too late.

344

00:41:07.120 --> 00:41:10.930

Jackie Elliott: This is no time for apathy or complacency.

345

00:41:11.120 --> 00:41:15.049

Jackie Elliott: This is a time for vigorous and positive action.

346

00:41:15.740 --> 00:41:20.460

Jackie Elliott: and the citizens of this State are looking for that positive action.

347

00:41:21.050 --> 00:41:29.759

Jackie Elliott: That's what we want. It's what we expect, and I thank you for your time, and I will be submitting written comments as well. Thank you very much.

348

00:41:31.400 --> 00:41:32.949

Melanie Loyzim: Thank you, Miss Eller

349

00:41:36.710 --> 00:41:40.029

Melanie Loyzim: Erin Miller next will be Erin Miller.

350

00:42:09.400 --> 00:42:10.130

Melanie Loyzim: Thank you.

351

00:42:11.756 --> 00:42:16.999

Erin Miller: Good morning. Thank you for your patience with my technical difficulties.

352

00:42:17.367 --> 00:42:21.659

Erin Miller: I'm a resident of Orno, so I live near Juniper Ridge landfill.

353

00:42:21.780 --> 00:42:29.290

Erin Miller: I appreciate the insightful commentary, both from the engineering firm as well as the person who preceded me.

354

00:42:29.871 --> 00:42:32.230

Erin Miller: I wanted to voice concerns

355

00:42:32.270 --> 00:42:36.209

Erin Miller: about the proposed expansion for several reasons. One.

356

00:42:36.690 --> 00:42:42.860

Erin Miller: I see some serious vulnerabilities in the State's current plan and system, and that

357

00:42:43.120 --> 00:42:49.699

Erin Miller: one location is the backup for all 16 counties in the event that there are issues with the landfill.

358

00:42:49.760 --> 00:43:04.540

Erin Miller: What happens when there is, as previously stated, inevitably, an issue with the liner, or a leakage, or some other issue like previously occurred in 2023 happens at Juniper Ridge. What is the State's plan for backup?

359

00:43:04.700 --> 00:43:24.309

Erin Miller: Then I also question that there are concerns about the potential impacts of tracking biosolids out of state, but tracking them from all over the State to Penobscot County seems to be acceptable. I think maybe a distributed more local disposal network, while we strive to develop

360

00:43:24.550 --> 00:43:42.269

Erin Miller: 0 waste or better solutions to particularly waste like biosolids, which I think many may argue is actually hazardous as we're learning more about pfas and the implications of that for people, animals, and the environment.

361

00:43:44.210 --> 00:43:48.379

Erin Miller: I think that that needs to be looked at more closely, and that treating

362

00:43:48.830 --> 00:43:51.420

Erin Miller: Penobscot County, Old Town

363

00:43:51.440 --> 00:43:55.660

Erin Miller: as the dump for the entire State is not

364

00:43:55.750 --> 00:44:01.000

Erin Miller: a sustainable, adaptable, or resilient approach.

365

00:44:01.010 --> 00:44:06.230

Erin Miller: 2 way solutions for Maine. So thank you very much for the opportunity to speak.

366

00:44:07.980 --> 00:44:08.746

Melanie Loyzim: Thank you.

367

00:44:09.990 --> 00:44:14.320

Melanie Loyzim: Amelia Tracy. Next is Amelia Tracy.

368

00:44:14.730 --> 00:44:15.520

Melanie Loyzim: all of

369

00:44:43.310 --> 00:44:45.179

Melanie Loyzim: we're working on Amelia

370

00:45:35.410 --> 00:45:36.290

Melanie Loyzim: lost

371

00:45:36.800 --> 00:45:44.830

Melanie Loyzim: Amelia. We're trying to promote you to panelists. It's going to ask you to accept that. So if you could. Please say yes

372

00:45:44.850 --> 00:45:48.969

Melanie Loyzim: when it says that you're being invited to be promoted to panelists

373

00:45:49.140 --> 00:45:51.479

Melanie Loyzim: that will enable you to

374

00:45:51.490 --> 00:45:53.049

Melanie Loyzim: present your comments.

375

00:46:20.240 --> 00:46:23.170

Melanie Loyzim: I know she had a meeting, so maybe she's still

376

00:46:26.350 --> 00:46:38.410

Melanie Loyzim: okay. Alright, so it looks like Amelia may not be able to join us at this time. Amelia, if you can hear us, please go ahead and send your comments to us in writing.

377

00:46:38.590 --> 00:46:45.640

Melanie Loyzim: and those were the 3 persons who had registered for presenting their comments orally this morning.

378

00:46:45.830 --> 00:46:50.770

Melanie Loyzim: Like to thank everybody again for joining us for taking the time to present your comments.

379

00:46:50.910 --> 00:46:55.929

Melanie Loyzim: I encourage everyone who is interested to submit your written comments to the Department.

380

00:46:56.220 --> 00:47:00.440

Melanie Loyzim: We do have a page on our website.

381

00:47:00.570 --> 00:47:08.529

Melanie Loyzim: If you go to Dp's main web page. Under major projects you'll find a link to Juniper Ridge landfill

382

00:47:08.600 --> 00:47:20.269

Melanie Loyzim: with the information for where to submit your comments, and from there you'll also be able to view the reporting of today's meeting last week's meetings, and all of the comments that we have received to date.

383

00:47:20.330 --> 00:47:24.890

Melanie Loyzim: So thank you all very much for your interest in this matter, and have a good day.