

# Casellas to Buy Landfill in New Hampshire

By JAMES BANDLER

Local trash giants John and Doug Casella are getting bigger.

The Casella brothers have formed a partnership with a Pennsylvania company to buy the Consumat Sanco landfill in Bethlehem, N.H.

"It will allow us to expand to the northern portion of New Hampshire," said John Casella, the chairman of Casella Waste Management Inc. "It will allow us to provide recycling services that have not been provided there."

Casella, whose company has helped to operate the landfill for about a month, would not disclose the cost of the purchase. He said the

transaction had not been formally completed.

"It's not done," Casella said. "It's not a closed deal."

Located on 126 acres of property, Consumat Sanco is a double-lined landfill that takes trash from municipalities as far away as Maine and as close as Sherburne.

National Waste Industries of Pittsburgh, Pa., is providing capital for the venture, Casella said. To purchase the landfill, the company has joined Casella to form the partnership New England Waste Services Inc. Officers in this new company include the Casellas and James Bohlig of Shrewsbury.

Bohlig and the Casellas are among the local owners of the Vermont Integrated Waste Solutions incinerator in Rutland City. The reopening of the burner appears unlikely since the state's rejection last month of the owners' air pollution permit application.

Started in 1975 as a one-truck operation, the Casellas' company is now the largest waste management business in the state. It was the first company to offer comprehensive recycling services in Vermont.

With their Bristol landfill slated for closure this fall, the Casellas have been busy searching for alternative disposal sites. They are still

negotiating to operate or buy a portion of the Waste USA landfill in Coventry, Casella said. The company also wants build a lined landfill in Newbury.

The company is not without critics.

Most recently, a civil suit filed in February by a competitor accuses Casella Waste Management of acting in concert with local Rutland officials to stifle competition in the local trash industry.

Casella, who has called the suit groundless, has argued that industry consolidation is inevitable in the modern waste management busi-

ness. According to Casella, those companies with the infrastructures to provide services to customers will be the companies that survive.



**John Casella**  
Buying Landfill

**Lined Landfills See Trash Shortfall**  
The Associated Press  
MORRETOWN — The operators of two of Vermont's three lined landfills say they may not have enough trash to run the operations because the state has failed

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to close down all the unlined landfills.

"If the lined landfills ... fail, the state is going to be out of options," said Scott Bennett, manager of Palisades Landfill of Moretown.

Bennett and Jean Pierre Rancourt, president of Waste USA of Coventry, said the Natural Resources Agency was to blame for their financial woes because the agency failed to shut down all of the state's unlined landfills.

It is more expensive to run a lined landfill than an unlined facility, so the operators must charge more for solid waste. Bennett and Rancourt say the unlined landfills are taking trash that should be going to their landfills.

The agency has closed most of the state's unlined facilities, but says at least two are operating illegally.

Bennett said the state was charging a \$6 per ton fee, which is prompting several municipalities to send their trash to New Hampshire where there is no surcharge.

Ed Leonard, director of the Solid Waste Division of the Environmental Conservation Department, denied the state is responsible for the landfill operators' financial troubles.

Leonard said state officials had abided by the law, which allows some unlined landfills to remain open beyond July 1, 1992.

