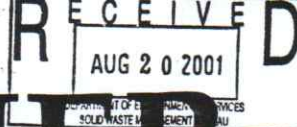


# THE COURIER



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## Letters to the editor

### DES says waste is just ducky

When a duck looks, walks and talks like a duck, for the NH Department of Environmental Services, it is still not a duck. When the DES issues permits for poisons to be deposited at the NCES landfill in Bethlehem, even though they will make you sick or kill you, they are classified by the DES as "Non-Hazardous Waste."

Here are some of the recent "Special Waste" materials and substances permit-

ted by the DES for landfilling in Bethlehem.

1. Sixty yards of soil contaminated by #6 fuel oil from a spill at Wausau Papers in Groveton. The soil was also permitted by DES to be used as a 6-inch layer of daily cover required at the dump. Evidently the DES sees no problem in residents inhaling fuel oil or already disoriented bears incorporating the soil as a dietary supplement.

It is common practice for the DES to allow material being dumped and requiring daily cover to be used as daily cover itself - in other words to be used to cover itself. Sound strange? NCES once applied to the DES to be able to use sludge as the daily cover. How about sludge-on-sludge as complying with the daily cover requirement?

2. Fifty tons per day of coal fly ash and bottom ash generated at the Brayton Point Station in Somerset, Mass. and Salem Harbor Station in Salem, Mass.

Look, this Mass stuff has got to go somewhere. The DES and NCES provide a

home in Bethlehem. While Mass prohibits the land spreading of sludge, New Hampshire encourages - and even imports it.

3. Four million wet pounds of sludge generated at the Pittsfield Wastewater Treatment Plant as part of a lagoon dewatering project.

The sludge was analyzed as too toxic for land spreading but just the ticket for landfilling in Bethlehem.

4. Eight hundred cubic yards of dredge spoils generated at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine. In addition the dredge material may also be used as daily cover.

Atta go, Maine! Now, Bethlehem can have contaminated soil or dredge material to cover the sludge - like a pastry chef building a layer cake. For topping, mix with fumes and vapors from the 24-hour per day leachate burning landfill incinerator.

5. Fifty tons of diesel fuel contaminated soil and wood chips as the result of a fuel spill on an undeveloped wooded property at the end of Driscoll Road in Lyndenbrough.

As if it had eyes, the soil and woodchip spread made it all the way to Bethlehem.

Beware: These materials are categorized as "Special Waste" and require a DES permit, they are on the record. But 80 percent of the dumping in Bethlehem is done by private haulers and the contents of their shipments unknown. Not exactly a carefully monitored, safe and healthy situation.

But the end is in sight.

The NH Supreme Court has stopped landfill expansion at 51 acres. At the fast-fill rate NCES is going, it should

all be over in a couple of years, if then having to live with three million tons of garbage and poisons is anything to look forward to.

Still, Bethlehem. Stay the course, hold the line. Fifty-one acres, no more. It's in your best interests.

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