



Office of Selectmen

Town of Whitefield, N.H. 03598

"Heart of the White Mountains"

603/837-2551

July 12, 2021

N.H. Department of Environmental Services

29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95

Concord, NH 03302

Submitted Via Email to: WetlandsApplicationPublicComments@des.nh.gov

Ladies & Gentlemen:

RE: These comments are submitted pursuant to the NHDES application 2020-02239, submitted by Granite State Landfill, LLC

The residents of Whitefield have expressed grave concerns about the proposed site for a solid waste landfill so close to our municipal boundary. These concerns were exemplified by the near unanimous adoption of a warrant article opposing the proposed landfill at the 2020 Town Meeting.

We believe that the proposed landfill poses significant negative impacts to our community. While our worries are many, we acknowledge that the focus of this hearing is to gather comments regarding impacts to wetlands, surface and groundwater, and site selection. Within this context we offer the following comments:

First, while none of the wetlands lie within the Town of Whitefield, we believe it is a tragedy to disturb or destroy these sensitive ecological systems that are so important to a healthy forest ecosystem. The forests in our region are a mecca for outdoor recreation and play a vital role in our local economy. Physical and visual disturbances of our pristine environment detract from the attraction to our area. We ask the N.H. Department of Environmental Services to require the applicant to revisit their site selection criteria and reconsider sites that are less impactful to sensitive wetlands and our recreational economy.

Second, we are ill-equipped to validate the applicant's reported findings regarding the ground water examinations surrounding the site and similarly the validity of the stated long-term integrity of the landfill liner and systems proposed to prevent the movement of leachate into the environment. Given this site's close proximity to Forest and Burns Lake as well as private drinking water wells, we urge the N.H. Department of Environmental Services to undertake an independent expert examination of the ground water movement and landfill engineering design to validate the applicant's assertions.

N.H. Department of Environmental Services

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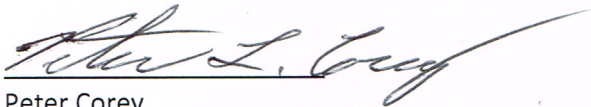
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Third, we applaud the applicant's intent to create a recycling center downstate that will remove material from the waste stream and reduce carbon emissions. However, we believe it is important to highlight the fact that the vast majority of the waste is generated in large population centers distant from the proposed landfill. Subsequently, the movement of this waste by truck over long distances will discharge significant carbon emissions and diesel exhaust particulates into the atmosphere. Whitefield will experience more than its fair share of this pollution from the 90 tractor trailer trucks projected to move through our village center each day on their way to and from the landfill. We ask that the department require a full and transparent accounting of the environmental impact related to this transportation activity. And again, we ask that the N.H. Department of Environmental Services require the applicant to revisit their site selection process and include air pollution from transportation activities as an important evaluative criterion.

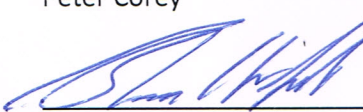
We appreciate this opportunity to submit these comments as part of the public record.

Respectfully,

Board of Selectmen



Peter Corey



Shawn White



John Thoff