

Mr. Philip Trowbridge, LRM Manager
NH Dept. of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH. 03302-0095

15 March 2024

RE: Wetlands Permit Application/NHDES File # 2023-03259
Granite State Landfill/Dalton & Bethlehem, NH

Dear Mr. Trowbridge

This letter is to acknowledge that the Littleton Conservation Commission remains in strong opposition to the proposed Granite State Landfill in Dalton & Bethlehem, NH. This commission expressed its opposition in a letter to the NHDES on 11 January 2021 when the Granite State Landfill submitted a previous (unsuccessful) application for the same area. From an environmental standpoint, NOTHING HAS CHANGED. The same affected wetlands and watersheds STILL EXIST, the same porous soil conditions STILL EXIST, the same Ammonoosuc River still receives whatever is discharged from this proposed project area.

What HAS changed is the more recent occurrence of two accidental discharges of TOXIC landfill leachate from two of the applicant's landfill sites (Bethlehem, NH and Coventry, VT). What HAS changed is the increased recognition of the huge impact of PFAS on human health. What HAS changed is the allowance of independent certified wetland scientists to report their findings to this application process (Dalton Conservation Commission report and Fraggie Rock Environmental report) resulting in their recommendation to DENY the permit.

The Littleton Conservation Commission (and ALL Conservation Commissions) share a primary responsibility towards the protection of wetlands and watersheds. This same responsibility is reflected in the mission statement of the NHDES. Allowing the proposed Granite State Landfill or ANY landfill to locate in this area would represent a dereliction of this responsibility to our environmental values.

The Littleton Conservation Commission requests that the NH Department of Environmental Services DENY this permit and make this letter and the LCC letter of 11 January 2021 both part of the file record for this NHDES File #2023-03259.

Thank You,

Tom Alt, Chair
Littleton Conservation Commission
125 Main St.
Littleton, NH. 03561

Update 3/15/2024

RE: NHDES File #2023-03259

To be included as a part of Littleton Conservation Commission's 3/15/2024 letter requesting NHDES denial of Granite State Landfill Permit, Dalton/Bethlehem, NH

Mr. Craig Rennie
NHDES Wetlands Bureau
NH Dept. of Environmental Services
PO Box 95, 29 Haven Drive
Concord, NH 03302

January 11, 2021

RE: NHDES File #2020-02239

Dear Mr. Rennie

At our December 21, 2020 meeting the Littleton Conservation Commission reviewed and discussed the above wetlands permit application. At the same time, we reviewed correspondence from neighboring conservation commissions that they have submitted to your office to be included as part of this file.

Since a major part of a New Hampshire conservation commission's responsibility is directed towards protection of wetlands, this letter is a response to that specific impact that the proposed project would have on the proposed project area. At the same time, we acknowledge the fact that the proposed project would seriously impact the local communities in socio-economic and other ways.

Although the actual footprint for the landfill would lie in Dalton, the land parcel involved extends into several adjacent towns, including Littleton. Actually, the entire Alder Brook drainage flows into Littleton (Tax Map 36 Lot 17) from Dalton and merges with the Hatch Brook drainage (Tax Map 36 Lot 18), crosses the Bethlehem town line, flows under NH RT 116 and enters the Ammonoosuc River. Map & Lot #'s, town line boundaries...we realize that none of this limits or affects the natural boundaries of wetlands, of surface or subsurface flow.

The wetland impact numbers for this proposed project are seriously large. 16+ acres, 150 feet perennial stream, 1350 feet intermittent stream, five vernal pools. In Littleton, the LCC has dealt with many wetland permits and the fact remains that even with such "tools" as compensatory

mitigation, permanently impacted wetlands are destroyed wetlands. And when a project such as a landfill is involved, the destruction can travel far outside the landfill's footprint.

As found on the NHDES website, *"The mission of the NHDES is to help sustain a high quality of life for all citizens by protecting and restoring the environment and public health in New Hampshire. The protection and wise management of the state's environment are the main goals of the agency."*

Also on the website, *"The Water Division (of the NHDES) is tasked with protecting the numerous lakes, ponds and rivers in the state, as well as valuable groundwater."*

As conservation commissioners and as citizens of New Hampshire, we concur with these mission statements that NHDES has set as their directive.

The Littleton Conservation Commission strongly opposes the approval of the landfill project involving NHDES File #2020-02239 and proposes that NHDES abide by its own mission statement to deny this project.

Thank you,

Tom Alt, Chair
Littleton Conservation Commission
125 Main St.
Littleton, NH 03561