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FEATURED

## Casella Tells Stockholders It Will Close Bethlehem Landfill On Dec. 31

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On Thursday, Casella Waste Systems announced to its stockholders that its NCES landfill in Bethlehem, pictured here, will close on Dec. 31, 2026. (Photo contributed by NHDES)

Casella Waste Systems told its stockholders this week that it will close its North Country Environmental Services commercial landfill in Bethlehem at the end of 2026, adding that the closure is not expected to affect the company's fourth-quarter financial results.

The landfill, which Casella has owned since 1994, is expected to close in three months, which Bradford Helgeson, Casella's executive vice-chairman and chief financial officer, said is a year earlier than what the company had previously projected.

The closure comes after Bethlehem town meeting voters in 2017 and 2018 rejected attempts to expand the town's 61-acre landfill district by another 100 acres to accommodate landfill expansion, and after the company, in 2026, unsuccessfully persuaded the New Hampshire Legislature to support an amended landfill bill that would have voided existing legal agreements between a landfill company and a town, such as the 2012 settlement agreement that Bethlehem has with Casella that caps the town's landfill district at the 61 acres.

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Casella announced the agreement in an 8-K report it filed on Thursday with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Companies release these reports to announce significant events for shareholders.

Casella announces “to customers, regulators and the host community of the North Country Environmental Services landfill located in Bethlehem, New Hampshire (the “NCES” landfill) that December 31, 2026 will be the final day that the NCES Landfill accepts municipal solid waste for disposal,” wrote Helgeson.

“The Company had previously reported its expectation that the NCES Landfill would stop accepting waste by the end of 2027, but the Company subsequently modified such timing after evaluation of the remaining permitted airspace, current and projected fill rates, and other operational factors,” said Helgeson. “The modified time of the closure date will result in a higher level of landfill amortization expense [spreading out the costs of debt payments during a period of time] in the fourth quarter of 2026 than previously anticipated, but such expense is not anticipated to have a material impact on the Company’s financial results for the fourth quarter of 2026 and the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2026.”

Casella, a Delaware corporation, has been publicly traded on the NASDAQ since 1997.

Since the last Bethlehem vote in 2018, the town, which has used the NCES transfer station for decades, has advanced a plan to build its own municipal transfer station after the landfill’s closure.

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Funded with a \$323,528 capital reserve fund and a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development grant, the new station is slated for town-owned property along Route 116.

Giving an update on Monday, before the NCES closure date was known, Select Board chairman Mike Bruno said the new permanent transfer station is a “long-term solution to ensure that the community has solid waste disposal for years to come.”

Engineering and environmental review and grant funding requirements are moving forward.

The town is determining a construction schedule.

In the meantime, Bruno said the town might need to set up a temporary transfer station before the permanent station is completed.

Currently, the annual operating costs of a municipal transfer station are estimated at \$250,000, which will be offset by an estimated \$100,000 in revenues.

After the NCES closure, Bethlehem will transport its waste to the municipally owned Mt. Carberry landfill near Berlin, where a growing number of North Country towns now send their trash.

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Robert Blechl