

Whitefield Conservation Commission
56 Littleton Road
Whitefield, NH 03598
(603) 837-9871

April 10, 2024

Mr. Phil Trowbridge, LRM Manager
N.H. Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03302-0095
philip.r.trowbridge@des.nh.gov

Re: Standard Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit Application (RSA 482-A) NHDES File Number: 2023-03259 Subject Property: Douglas Drive, Dalton, Tax Map #406/1, Lot #406/2

Dear Mr. Trowbridge,

The Whitefield Conservation Commission wishes to go on record as being strongly opposed to the granting of a permit to the Casella Corporation for the purpose of siting a landfill on land in close proximity to Forest Lake and wetlands in Whitefield that feed into our municipal water supply.

At this time there is no pressing need for additional landfill capacity in our area. This is particularly true given that some 49% of the material proposed for the landfill would be trucked here from out of state. The motivation for this proposed landfill is, without question, corporate profits. Should Casella eventually be allowed to construct and operate this loathsome project, our pristine natural resources would be put in grave danger.

Whitefield residents also do not wish to be subjected to the practically ceaseless truck traffic that is being proposed to come through our downtown area. That particular route has been proposed so that Casella can avoid having to deal with the pushback that would be generated in Littleton; a much shorter route. Political expediency has created this particular hazard for our town. Simply stated, Casella would prefer to battle with little Whitefield than take on the political and financial muscle of much larger Littleton.

The proposed Casella Landfill development project will damage Whitefield more than any other community or town in the area.

Our particular concern is the proximity of this project to our primary well that provides Whitefield's town water supply. Leachate that is spilled or leaked from the landfill would likely drain directly into Forest Lake and from there downstream into our primary water supply, the Robinson Well. The potential impacts on wetlands, groundwater including well water, shorelines, local streams, nearby bodies of water including Forest Lake and Burns Lake, plants, and wildlife are profound. Increased truck traffic and leachate transport also contribute to the negative environmental impact of spillage, accidents, litter, and exhausts, not to mention public safety, noise, odor, and infrastructure damage.

Virtually every environmental and governmental body in the North Country's impacted towns has strenuously objected to the proposed landfill. When the required public hearing is scheduled, we respectfully request that the hearing be held at White Mountains Regional High School in Whitefield in order to permit local voices to be heard by DES.

We cannot overstate our objection to this proposed desecration of our community resources.

Sincerely,

Whitefield Conservation Commission

Donald LaPlante, D.Ed, Vice Chair

Frank Lombardi, Chair

Lisa Courcy

Marcia Hammon, former NH District #5 Representative

Marsha Lombardi

Dave Chase

Joseph Hoffman

Enclosures

cc: Commissioner Robert Scott, NHDES

Whitefield Selectboard

NH State Senator Carrie Gendreau, District I

NH State Representative Seth King, Coos 4

NH State Representative Eamon Kelley, Coos 7

