

Casella, WM, others battled landfill expansion opposition in April

Environmental justice groups continue to rally against landfill expansion plans with mixed results.

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A pre-development photograph of an area where Casella is proposing to reopen and expand the Granite State Landfill. (2020). "Photo Rendering 3 - Observation Point 2 Existing Condition (2020)" [Photograph]. Retrieved from [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#).

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Landfills around the country continue to face challenges getting expansions approved. WM notched a win recently in Michigan, where it has agreed to construct a replacement wetlands and forest as a mitigation plan for a landfill expansion. In Pennsylvania, the Keystone Sanitary Landfill has also reached an agreement to address odor complaints and is now attempting to clear another hurdle to begin a major expansion. But Casella received disapproval from a municipal body amidst its plan to revive a landfill in Hardwick, Massachusetts.

Read on for updates on some difficult expansion processes that have evolved in recent weeks.

Casella attempt to revive Massachusetts landfill hits setback

Casella's proposal to reopen a landfill it was forced to close in 2007 suffered a setback on April 9. The Hardwick, Massachusetts, planning board voted not to recommend zoning amendments proposed by Casella, which would have allowed the landfill to reopen and combined it with a neighboring gravel pit.

Last year, the company presented town officials with a plan for an annual host fee expected to provide Hardwick with more than \$2 million per year. The landfill would accept about 1,125 tons per day of both MSW and C&D waste, according to that plan.

The double-lined landfill would have a 48-acre footprint and a 13-year lifespan, according to the company's most recent proposal. Casella Vice President of Communications Jeff Weld said the setback "means very little to the project" in an email. He said town residents themselves would also need to vote on such amendments. He also noted that Casella withdrew the amendments and "expects to resubmit a revised zoning amendment package

that addresses some of the questions and concerns raised by residents during the public hearing.”