

# Landfill Citations

## DES Lists Multiple Violations Of Pollution Standards



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Landfills in Bethlehem, Conway, Lebanon, and Rochester have been cited for mismanaging leachate and failing to file reports. (Getty Images)

Spokesman Jeff Weld [told the New Hampshire Bulletin](#) that the hundreds of violations at Casella Waste Systems' Bethlehem landfill that were listed in a letter from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services are “unacceptable” and that Casella would conduct a “significant investigation” into their root causes. He added that the

issues “are not representative” of the company’s “expectations for operational excellence,” but that they posed “no potential harm” to people or the environment.

“We have immediately implemented several operational improvements to diminish the production of leachate at the site,” Weld said, “while also increasing the number of wastewater treatment and hauling contractors available to help manage the site’s wastewater.”

Weld’s expressed surprise comes after years of complaints by local residents that DES has been too lenient in allowing the complaints to go unaddressed. North Country residents have repeatedly cited the problems in Bethlehem as one of the reasons for opposing Casella’s bid to site a new landfill in Dalton, near Forest Lake State Park.

Casella was not the only company in violation of environmental standards. The DES also cited the Rochester landfill operated by Waste Management New Hampshire, the town-operated landfill in Conway, and the city-operated landfill in Lebanon.

**Discussion:** Jon Swan of the group Save Forest Lake has been a vocal opponent of the Dalton landfill, paying attention to the violations and monitoring the testing that has demonstrated that pollution from the Bethlehem landfill has been reaching local waterways. His communications with DES citing their own findings and their seeming reluctance to take enforcement action is likely to have forced the agency to act.

## IT Systems Knocked Out Around The Globe

Cybersecurity officials are scrambling to recover from major outages that hit industries around the world, forcing the cancellation of almost 1,400 flights, but they say it was not a cyber attack. Rather, it was a “defect” in CrowdStrike’s software update that hit Microsoft’s operating systems.

While a fix has been deployed, the company said it could take some time before systems are fully back up and running.

The IT outage affected airlines, hospitals, banks, and media outlets. Some hospitals had to cancel surgeries and Alaska reported that its 911 systems may be affected.