

# Casella Engineer Under Investigation Regarding Professional Licensing and Certification in NH

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**News Provided By:** Save Forest Lake

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**Bethlehem, NH** – In response to the largest-ever spill of 154,000 gallons of landfill leachate at the North Country Environmental Services (N.C.E.S.) Landfill in Bethlehem, NH, a complaint was filed on May 18, 2021 against Casella Waste Systems engineering manager, John Gay, with the Office of Licensure and Certification (OPLC) for the State of New Hampshire. The OPLC is responsible for the enforcement of regulatory requirements for qualifying licensed professionals and businesses in the State of New Hampshire. Their oversight ensures public safety and the efficacy of practicing licensed professions and businesses.

Concerns had been raised regarding the licensing of Mr. Gay, a resident of Williston, Vermont, following the 2-day leachate accident at the Casella owned and operated N.C.E.S. landfill. Questions were raised relative to the use of the title of “Engineer” by Mr. Gay, as he often attaches that professional title to his signature on the numerous documents on file with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (N.H.D.E.S.). In a response dated September 17, 2021, OPLC Board of Engineers Administrator Christine Horne informed the complainant, Jon Swan, Founder of Save Forest Lake, that the complaint had been sent to the OPLC Enforcement Unit.

The May 1-3 leachate accident is still under investigation by N.H.D.E.S. and marks the fourth operational deficiency for Casella Waste Systems at their controversial Bethlehem landfill facility in the past 19 months. An Administrative Order, issued by Robert Scott, N.H.D.E.S. Commissioner on July 16, citing four permit violations relative to the placing of an estimated 34,400 cubic yards of waste and 14,400 cubic yards of cover soil outside of the permitted vertical limits of the landfill, is under appeal by Casella with the N.H. Waste Management Council.

**About Save Forest Lake:** Save Forest Lake was founded in 2019 in response to the proposed landfill development plans of Casella Waste Systems, bordering the Forest Lake State Park in Dalton and Bethlehem, NH. Consisting of over 1000 current and former North Country residents, property and business owners, visitors and tourists, as well as countless others from across the country, Save Forest Lake has been at the forefront of opposition to the dangerously-sited, landfill plans of the corporation based in Rutland, Vermont.