

New Hampshire lawmakers issue preliminary objection to new landfill rules

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CONCORD, N.H. — State lawmakers are hitting the pause button on new regulations for constructing landfills in New Hampshire in a win for opponents of a landfill proposed to be built near a state park in the North Country.

The Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules voted unanimously Thursday to issue a preliminary objection to the rules submitted by the Department of Environmental Services.

"I believe that there needs to be some more work to make sure that all of the concerned voices are heard and that we understand exactly what this rule change will mean, not just for our landfills, but for the people of New Hampshire," said state Rep. Erica Layon, R-Derry.

The DES now has 45 days to respond to the committee's objection.

Much of the concern centers around a proposed landfill in the North Country near Forest Lake State Park that residents in Dalton and Whitefield have been fighting for years. Activists want the state to set higher standards for siting landfills.

"They're toxic and they're dangerous, and they need to be placed in the right location," said Wayne Morrison, of the North Country Alliance for Balanced Change.