

'Moral Obligation'

Carroll Residents Speak Out Against Landfill

February 24, 2011 - By Sharon Turano [sturano@post-journal.com](mailto:sturano@post-journal.com)

CARROLL - Carroll residents came out in force Wednesday to tell state Department of Environmental Conservation representatives their concerns over a proposed landfill expansion in the town.

Issues ranging from impacts on the Martz Observatory to wildlife, noise, traffic, property values, streams and more were voiced during the meeting hosted by the DEC to help the agency determine if there are environmental impacts of an expanded landfill.

Agency officials will then decide whether or not to issue a permit for Sealand Waste LLC to operate an expanded landfill.

Don and Carol Jones bought a 50-acre parcel in an agricultural/residential district in the town, with the town granting them a use variance in 1989 for the entire parcel to operate a construction and demolition debris landfill. A state Department of Environmental Conservation permit allowed them to use less than two acres for the landfill. They were later permitted to expand the landfill by one acre.

The Jones-Carroll landfill, which encompassed a three-acre section of a 50-acre parcel on Dodge Road, operated from 1989 through 2004.

The couple, who own the land, entered into an agreement with Sealand Waste in 2004 to expand the landfill. Non-hazardous construction and demolition waste would be accepted, along with demolition debris, recycling and yard waste composting. Sealand would acquire the closed landfill and then expand it from the previously approved three acres to 38 acres of a 54.1-acre parcel. Ancillary and support facilities will encompass an additional 8.5 acres.

"Scoping (as was done Wednesday in Frewsburg) helps to ensure that the draft environmental impact statement is a concise, accurate and complete document that addresses impacts important to the public and agencies," reports the DEC.

Its staff said the agency is responsible for the landfill permitting and is beginning environmental reviews for the site that would take waste from the closed landfill, 1,000 tons per day of construction and demolition debris, along with recyclables and yard waste compost.

Joe Bree, Sealand Waste vice president, said phased construction would begin if the site is permitted, with authorized items only taken such as bricks, concrete, soil, rock, wood, roofing shingles, fixtures and more. He said there would be no tires, white goods, vehicles, hazardous wastes or asbestos.

A traffic study and mitigation measures, along with monitoring, would be put in place as about 70 trucks and 15 vehicles driven by landfill workers pass by from 7 to 8 a.m., noon to 1 p.m. and 3 to 4 p.m. Monitoring with the DEC regarding water quality, leachate and sediment would be put in place, along with plans to return the site to green space after the landfill eventually closes, with monitoring continuing for 30 years.

Despite Bree's assurances, town residents and officials alike criticized the plan.

County Executive Greg Edwards wrote a letter to voice his displeasure with the landfill expansion, stating the county already has a landfill that can handle debris and another would negatively impact goals and objectives on which he has worked. Jack Jones, Carroll town supervisor, said the DEC is already spending money to help improve the quality of the municipality's water and does not need more water problems, especially when the county's landfill already handles waste.

Gary Nelson of the Martz Observatory said the landfill would be less than one mile away from the observatory, adding the landfill's heat, dust and lighting will hamper efforts to view the night sky.

"This could shut us down," he said.

Others said the landfill would also hurt neighborhoods, the Relief Zone for youth, trout streams, property values with noise, truck and leakage issues.

"No one stands to gain anything positive," said one resident, adding the landfill would only fulfill "one man's greed. The DEC has a moral obligation to not compromise quality of life for monetary gain," she said.

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