

Testimony for Public Hearing
Chairman Parker
Board of Environmental Protections
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My name is Andrea Verrill but I am known professionally and to my friends as Shri. I am here as a wetland scientist, a concerned citizen of Maine invested in water quality, recovery of the endangered Atlantic Salmon, and as a friend to the Penobscot Indian Nation. I am here to offer testimony in opposition to expansion of the Juniper Ridge landfill in Old Town and Alton, Maine. I believe that zero-growth of the landfill footprint is in order.

There is already a significant burden in the form of health and environmental hazards from the pre-existing dump and other toxic sites in the area to the water, endangered species and the people practicing their federally protected cultural sustenance life-ways on the Penobscot River. According to the US EPA and the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, the following schools in Bradley, Old Town and Milford were listed as affected by toxic chemicals (Acetaldehyde, chlorine dioxide, manganese & manganese compounds, methanol, ammonia) emitted by the Fort James Operating Co Pulp Mills: Viola Rand School, Old Town High School, Dr Lewis S Libby School, Leonard Middle School, and the Old Town Regional Special Ed Prog. (USA Today, 2009). State fish consumption advisories for mercury, PCBs, and dioxins are in place for the Penobscot River (EPA RARE report 2015), suggesting that it is only safe to eat 1-2 fish per month, unless one is pregnant, nursing, a woman who may get pregnant, or a child under the age of 8 (Environmental Toxicology Program, Maine Bureau of Health, 2000). A report put forth by the EPA in contingency with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) states that "ATSDR determined early in the health assessment process that [Penobscot Indian Nation] PIN members who ate fish and turtle were the main people potentially exposed to Penobscot River contaminants (ATSDR 2014)". Some known constituents being discharged [into the Penobscot] include suspended solids, heat, oxygen-depleting substances, chlorinated organics, chromium, copper, dioxin, lead, mercury, phenols, vanadium and zinc. The State WQS must protect the sustenance lifeway's of the Penobscot People as mandated by Section 101 (a) (2) of the Clean Water Act. Thus it is imperative that the State WQS are such that the hardships of our PIN friends and neighbors are reduced not increased. Juniper Ridge falls within the area of interest for NOAAs efforts to restore the Atlantic Salmon population. These are only several of countless examples of the exposure to contaminants that people in the area already experience.

Leachate barriers are a temporary solution to a long-term threat. They break over time but the contaminants do not stop leaking. Juniper Ridge is located within the floodplain of the Penobscot River and along two streams (EPA RARE report 2015; Kelley

et al., 1988) Recent storm surges from hurricane Matthew flooded hog farms in Wayne county North Carolina, causing immense pathogenic bacteria contamination of local surface water and the Neuse River (Mother Jones, 2016). What happens when the Penobscot River swells with floodwaters and overtops the barriers? Is there a contingency plan for such extensive surface water contamination? "Nearly all surface-water features (streams, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, and estuaries) interact with ground water" (Winter et al, 1998). Juniper Ridge has not proven that groundwater will not be polluted from the existing landfill, much less from their proposed expansion. It is only a matter of time before environmentally harmful substances enter and pollute the State's waters here, constituting a health hazard to the people, plants, and animals, which depend upon clean water for life and which are already overburdened with disproportionate exposure to health and environmental hazards.

The truck traffic is already a noise nuisance to those living along the road. I cannot imagine the stress and detrimental life effects one must experience due to being awakened every hour and 45 minutes throughout the night. Traffic to and from the landfill already exceeds reasonable use. Adding more constitutes a terribly inconvenient interference with the use and enjoyment of one's land and property.

The current use of construction and demolition debris (CDD) and oversized bulky wastes (OBW) as a nighttime cover is an unacceptable application of our State Waste Hierarchy. We should be mining the current landfill to recycle and reuse material already present. A more concentrated effort should be made to reduce the amount of waste altogether. Trucking in material from out of State must stop. We need sincere efforts to reduce waste, re-use material and recycle discarded products.

All of this is to testify against the proposed Juniper Ridge Expansion.

- It will pollute Maine's waters.
- It creates a nuisance for residents.
- It poses a health and environmental hazard for people, plants and animals in the area.
- Juniper Ridge is bringing in trash from out of State and violating the spirit of the State Waste Hierarchy.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Shri Verrill

Oct. 14, 2016 Hurricane Matthew Killed Millions of Farm Animals in North Carolina: It also caused massive amounts of toxic hog poop to flow into rivers and streams. MotherJones. (<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2016/10/hurricane-matthew-killed-animals-hog-poop>)

The Penobscot River and Environmental Contaminants: Assessment of Tribal Exposure Through Sustenance Lifeways. US EPA Region 1 RARE report 2015

USA Today, 2009 (<http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/environment/smokestack/polluter/2671>)

Winter, T. C., et al. "Ground Water And Surface Water A Single Resource." 1998