

WRITTEN COMMENT JUNIPER RIDGE PROPOSED EXPANSION

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My name is Kathleen Paul, Penobscot Tribal member residing at Penobscot Reservation. I am writing in protest against expanding Juniper Ridge. After much research I have come to believe that the proposed expansion could create a greater burden to my community, and other communities, which are already impacted by cumulative exposure to toxins.

Title 38, Chapter 13, Section 1310-N, licensing criteria for solid waste facilities state, *“The department may not issue a license for a solid waste facility if it finds that the proposed facility will cause an unreasonable threat to the quality of a classified body of surface water,”* and, *“...The department may not issue a license for a solid waste disposal facility when it finds that the proposed facility overlies a significant sand and gravel aquifer or when the department finds that the proposed facility poses an unreasonable threat to the quality of a significant sand and gravel aquifer it does not overlie, or to an underlying fractured aquifer.”*

It is my understanding that there is concern for this proposed expansion location because it would increase the amount of leachate being managed by JRL. This also increases pressure on our local water supply and residential wells, which should be taken into consideration. It is of major concern to me that this expansion will increase the volume of leachate, which will ultimately be treated and released into the Penobscot River and even possibly our drinking water.

The bigger the dump the higher the risk for methane and other emissions that would impact air quality while increased volumes of leachate could add pressure on the liner system, which would negatively impact water quality. It is frightening to think about the risk to our water and air quality and hope that the license for expansion is not granted

Over a period of time the waste in a landfill emits landfill gas which is a common occurrence when material decomposes. This gas, which is commonly known as methane contributes to global warming, A combination of CO₂, methane and other pollutants are collected in the atmosphere and absorb sunlight, trapping the heat making our planet hotter every year.

Please let Mother Earth rest, and let us come together because things are falling apart and the world is in decay. It is healing time for all of us now and we must live in harmony with everybody and everything. Let us choose compassion for the earth rather than greed, let us join hands together and protect the water from possible contamination. Let us take our differences and set them aside so that a new way of life can be formed and respected by all.

In Sisterhood,

Kathleen Paul, Penobscot Elder