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Dominique DiSpirito
Solid Materials Management Unit
Remediation and Waste Management
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December 10, 2025

Dear Ms. DiSpirito:

RE: HQH-D4D1-RJBBR permit application received by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Department) on November 21, 2025 per the Juniper Ridge Landfill, state-owned via the agency of the Maine Bureau of General Services, with contracted operations provided by the for-profit mega waste operation Casella Waste Systems d.b.a. NEWSME Landfill Operations, LLC., determined to be complete and accepted for processing by the Department on December 9, 2025.

I am writing to request a public hearing relevant to the referenced permit application. I will begin by putting some framework around my appeal.

1. [Maine's Solid Waste Management Rules, Chapter 2](#), Subsection 7 details the requirements, conduct, and criteria for holding hearings on applications. To summarize:
 - ***A request for a hearing must be sent to the Department of Environmental Protection in writing no later than 20 days after the application is accepted for processing.***
 - A request for ***a public hearing must indicate the interest of the person filing the request and specify the reasons why a hearing is warranted.***
 - ***A request for hearing will be granted at the Department's discretion when the Department determines there is "credible conflicting technical information regarding a licensing criterion and it is likely that a hearing will assist the Department in understanding the evidence."*** (emphasis added)
 - Attending documents can be found: [Maine DEP's web page for the Juniper Ridge Landfill](#)

As a concerned and interested Maine citizen – I have been involved with resource/waste management issues and policy for many years as a public health and environmental justice

advocate. I am an ordinary citizen who has experienced the harmful impacts of waste facility operations. I currently work with those who bear the toxic assault from nearby operations of the Juniper Ridge Landfill and other concerned Mainers. At the outset, I will offer the assertion that all Maine citizens are impacted by the decisions made around Juniper Ridge Landfill. It must be noted that the process for meaningful public participation for this profoundly impacting issue, is frustratingly prohibitive and off-putting. The permit application is 2,042 pages. Without casting aspersions on the Department, to put forth the criteria that the decision to provide a public hearing rests on a determination of “credible conflicting technical information” that will support the permitting agency’s understanding of the evidence supporting the permit approval, is an unrealistic objective for an ordinary citizen to meet.

With that said, it must be argued that the unquestionable consequences of permitting decisions involve more than just ticking off technical requirements and adhering to regulation jots and tittles. The reality is that these decisions affect public health, impact the environment, influence the quality of life especially of near-by neighbors to waste facilities, and have immediate and far-reaching economic outcomes for taxpayers. We are talking about people . . .

Understandably, the Department must work within the parameters statutes and rules allow. Which underscores the necessity of meaningfully involving the public from the outset of such decisions – specifically those bearing the greatest impacts. Maine law now requires the Department to include environmental justice in its decisions relative to waste facilities. To deny a public hearing on this permit application would constitute a blatant disregard for those obligations and other concerns.

I look forward to a public hearing being scheduled and have included some links to information that illustrate some of the reasons why I am concerned about this proposed expansion. I would also ask that when a public hearing is scheduled, the Department provide a means for the public to participate remotely, as this is an issue that affects all Mainers and who may be unable to attend in person. If you have any questions, I have included my contact information.

Sincerely, Jackie Elliott

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Please see:

<https://www.wastedive.com/news/epa-warns-of-pfas-exposure-from-biosolids-in-long-awaited-report/737360/>

<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-01/draft-sewage-sludge-risk-assessment-pfoa-pfos.pdf>

<https://news.arizona.edu/news/new-research-links-health-impacts-related-forever-chemicals-billions-economic-losses>