

Office of the Chief and Council

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Ms. Dominique DiSpirito
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Remediation & Waste Management
Dominique.Dispirito@maine.gov

Re: Penobscot Nation Request for Public Hearing on the Application for Landfill Expansion,
Juniper Ridge Landfill, Old Town

Dear Ms. DiSpirito,

Please accept this letter as a formal request for a public hearing regarding the Juniper Ridge Landfill Public Benefit Determination # HQH-D4D1-RJBBR

Penobscot Nation has an ongoing interest in Juniper Ridge Landfill's growth and presence on the landscape. Penobscot Nation and our citizens continue to have grave concerns for water quality particularly the integrity of wetland acreage connected to Penobscot traditional hunting, fishing, and gathering territories located along Birch Stream and flowing into the Penobscot River.

Because the landfill location is in close proximity and waters flow through and around our reservation, Penobscot Nation and our citizens continue to have grave concerns for the watershed. These concerns are amplified because approximately 36 acres of the new landfill footprint lie below the water table and because of the known presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS, or "forever chemicals") associated with JRL. Many locals get their drinking water from this very watershed. This is a serious environmental justice issue.

To consider the rights and interests of citizens who are or will be most impacted, we further request that the public hearing take place in a location and at a time that is convenient for them (preferably in the area of Old Town, Alton, or Penobscot Nation). Ideally, citizens most affected would not need to take a day off from work to travel in winter to Augusta to participate in this process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Chief Kirk Francis