

Stefanie M. Giallongo, Wetland Specialist, NH Dept. of Environmental Services David Price,
Wetland Specialist, NH Dept. of Environmental Services

RE: NH DES File Number: 2020-02239 Wetlands Permit Standard Application

Dear Ms. Giallongo and Mr. Price:

The Dalton Conservation Commission (DCC) is writing to inform you that we have been denied site access to the proposed Granite State Landfill site by both the landowner, Douglas Ingerson, Jr., via an email dated May 11, 2021 and the wetlands permit applicant, Casella Waste Systems, via email, May 24, 2021, both attached. A response to Mr. Brian Oliver's denial letter was sent on May 25, 2021, stating the purpose of the site visit request, with no subsequent response from the applicant to date. Thus, we feel the applicant has stonewalled the DCC, yet again, resulting in the loss of opportunity to properly assess the site during the growing season. As a result, no site inspections have been able to take place at a time when critical observations need to be made.

It is our understanding that NHDES Wetlands Bureau anticipates the issuance of a Notice of Public Hearing for the wetlands permit application no later than June 24, 2021. The DCC intends to make detailed comments on the application after we have been afforded an opportunity to visit the site during the growing season, and in the accompaniment of our wetlands consultant, Mr. James McClammer, in order to properly assess the validity of the applicant's site information. We had provided the landowner, as well as the developer, the dates of May 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 for a site visit in an email to both, dated April 27, 2021, as stated above.

As a result of this denial of site access, by both the landowner and the permit applicant, it is our belief that the DCC's statutory role in the permitting process has been foreclosed as an independent, professional assessment of the project's impact has not been adequately conducted. This obfuscation only increases our concerns over the credibility of the application and perception that the voices of the people most affected by this project are being muzzled.

Therefore, we feel it appropriate to call for a mandatory halt to the permitting process, along with a resetting of all deadlines, until the site conditions can be verified by the local land-use body and its wetlands consultant, most preferably during the growing season, when the occurrence of vernal pools and rare, threatened, and endangered species can be confirmed.

Respectfully,
Dalton Conservation Commission

Nancy Comeau, Chair

- Mike Noel
- Ernie Hannaford
- Miriam Caldwell