

August 16, 2022

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*(sent only via email)*

Re: NHDOT Driveway Permit Application #14656 (GSL Landfill Project)

Dear Commissioner Sheehan and Commissioner Scott:

The Dalton Conservation Commission is sending this letter in regard to NHDOT Driveway Permit Application #14656 for the proposed Granite State Landfill (GSL) project at Douglas Drive in Bethlehem and Dalton, NH.

As the appointed conservation commission for the Town of Dalton, we would like to write in support of the Town of Dalton Selectboard letter of July 11, 2022. We respectfully request that no determination be made by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation until all necessary local approvals are acquired by the applicant for NHDOT driveway permit application #14656. As stated in that letter, the Town of Bethlehem does have a local zoning ordinance in place, and a large portion of Douglas Drive lies within the borders of the Town of Bethlehem. Also, the applicant will need to obtain local approval by the Town of Dalton Planning Board for a major subdivision within the borders of the Town of Dalton, as stated by the Town of Dalton Selectboard in their July 11, 2022 letter.

Conservation commissions are established by the municipality they represent "for the proper utilization and protection of the natural resources and for the protection of watershed resources of said city or town", as per RSA 36-A. In other words, we

are the only local board specifically charged with protecting the natural resources of the municipality we serve. We would like to point out that the wetlands impacts from this project are unknown at this time, since the applicant for the driveway permit does not have any permit applications, nor development plans, on file with NHDES for its proposed GSL project. Thus, any driveway permit approvals by NHDOT at this time would be inappropriate and premature, due to the fact that the true size and scope of the proposed project, and in particular the amount of wetland impacts, is unknown at this time.

We also agree with our Selectboard in that any other proposed developments that would be accessed by this driveway must be taken into consideration by NHDOT in considering the merits of this driveway permit application.

Respectfully,

**Dalton Conservation Commission**

Nancy Comeau, Chair  
Ernie Hannaford  
Tamela Swan  
Miriam Caldwell  
Ruth Duval

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