



**Please join us and tell the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to REJECT Casella's Public Benefit Determination**

***There is NO "Public Benefit" in Environmental Injustice***

Casella is trying to expand Juniper Ridge Landfill (JRL) and has applied for a public benefit determination (PBD). The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is holding an in-person public meeting to receive public comment.

If Commissioner Loyzim approves Casella's PBD application, Casella can move forward with an application to expand JRL to bury an additional 11.9 million cubic yards of waste—that's equivalent to *8.6 empire state buildings*—and add 11 years to the mega landfill.

For the past two decades, Old Town and Alton residents, the Penobscot Nation, environmental organizations, and legislators have questioned Casella's ability to manage JRL, and have serious concerns about the environmental and health threats JRL poses.

***We call on Commissioner Loyzim to issue a negative public benefit determination.***

The proposed expansion violates environmental justice requirements for the communities where the expansion is proposed and does not comply with Maine's Solid Waste Management Hierarchy, violating criteria of the public benefit determination standards.

We urge Commissioner Loyzim to pursue an independent environmental review of Casella's landfill practices and the cumulative environmental justice impacts, prior to acceptance of an expansion application.

**Protect Mainers rights to clean water, clean air, and a healthy environment.**

**Talking Points**

- ✓ **Expanding JRL does not provide a substantial public benefit.**
- ✓ **Expanding JRL does not comply with Maine's Solid Waste Management Hierarchy.**
- ✓ **Expanding JRL violates the environmental justice requirements for impacted communities.**

- ✓ This substantial stream of CDD works against the State's waste reduction goals and toxicity reduction goals. CDD is a particularly threatening waste stream as it contains toxic chemicals "and is likely to generate [harmful](#) leachate."
- ✓ Expanding JRL does not incentivize reduction, prioritize reuse, develop recycling or composting programs, and works against recycling and composting goals. Build disposal capacity and waste will come, defying the goals of the Solid Waste Hierarchy
- ✓ The JRL expansion does not include specific conditions to reduce the volume of waste, increase diversion and recycling, and violates the PBD requirement that planned expansion must promote the Solid Waste Hierarchy.

**This application does not comply with the criteria of a positive public benefit determination and must be denied under the requisites of the governing statute.**

**Any approval for expansion MUST be conditioned to require:**

- ✓ A dewatering system for sludge
- ✓ Setting a maximum fill limit
- ✓ Placing a cap on the pulverized "CDD fines" used for alternate daily cover
- ✓ An on-site leachate PFAS treatment system

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***How to Participate:***

Plan to keep your testimony to about 3 minutes.

Written comments may be submitted to DEP until Friday, August 23, 2024. However, because DEP must also make their determination by the 23rd, we **recommend** that **you submit comments by July 26, 2024.**

Submit written comments by emailing Karen Knuuti: [karen.knuuti@maine.gov](mailto:karen.knuuti@maine.gov). More information about the meeting and how to submit comments can be found at <https://www.maine.gov/dep/waste/juniperridge/>.





STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



**Public Meeting Handout**

**Application for Public Benefit Determination  
Juniper Ridge Landfill**

The State of Maine, Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, has applied for a determination of public benefit for a proposed expansion of the State-owned Juniper Ridge Landfill. Before the Department can act upon an application for a proposed landfill expansion, the Commissioner must determine that the proposed expansion would provide a substantial public benefit. The proposed expansion would provide 11.9 million cubic yards and 11.3 years of disposal capacity. Juniper Ridge Landfill is operated for the State by Casella Waste Systems, Inc., under the terms of an operating services agreement.

The following provides some applicable excerpts from Chapter 400 of Maine's Solid Waste Management Rules pertaining to applications for public benefit determination.

**400(5)(E). Standards for public benefit determination.** The Commissioner shall find that a proposed solid waste disposal facility or expansion that is subject to the provisions of this section provides a substantial public benefit if it meets the following standards:

- (1) The facility meets immediate, short-term, or long-term capacity needs of the State. For purposes of this paragraph, immediate means within the next 3 years, "short term" means within the next 5 years, and "long term" means within the next 10 years. When evaluating whether a proposed facility meets the capacity needs of the State, the commissioner shall consider relevant local and regional needs as appropriate and the regional nature of the development and use of disposal capacity due to transportation distances and other factors;
- (2) Except for expansion of a commercial solid waste disposal facility that accepts only special waste for landfilling, the facility is consistent with the State Waste Management and Recycling Plan and promotes the Solid Waste Management Hierarchy as set out in 38 M.R.S.A. § 2101;
- (3) The facility is not inconsistent with local, regional, or state waste collection, storage, transportation, processing, or disposal; and
- (4) The facility is not inconsistent with ensuring environmental justice for the community in which the facility is proposed.

**400(4)(N) Solid Waste Management Hierarchy**

- (1) **Standards.** The purpose and practices of the solid waste facility must be consistent with the State's solid waste management hierarchy set forth in 38 M.R.S.A. § 2101, which establishes that it is the policy of the State to actively promote and encourage waste reduction measures and the maximization of waste

**Web Links and Contact Information:**

Maine DEP Juniper Ridge Landfill Website:

<https://www.maine.gov/dep/waste/juniperridge/index.html>

Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services Juniper Ridge Landfill Website: <https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bgs/maines-state-owned-landfills/juniper-ridge-landfill>

Chapter 400 of the Solid Waste Management Rules:

<https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/06-096-096c400.docx>

January 2024 Maine Materials Management Plan:

<https://www.maine.gov/tools/what-s-new/attach.php?id=12222463&an=1>

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