



Wayne A. Wheeler, P.E. CSI, CDT  
Solid Waste Management Bureau  
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Service  
29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Mr. Wheeler,

The Tilton Conservation Commission would like to go on record as opposed to the expansion of the Casella/Bestways trash transfer facility located just off Route 140 in Belmont.

We expressed major concerns with this site as a trash/transfer facility when it was originally proposed back in 2005 at a public hearing held in Tilton on July 18, 2005. During that pre-construction hearing we requested that not only monitoring wells be installed, but that a non-pervious membrane be put in place beneath the permeable gravel surface to safeguard the aquifer and groundwater from any potential contamination.

The communities of Belmont, Tilton and Northfield get most of their drinking water from this aquifer, with the towns of Tilton and Northfield pumping upwards to half a million gallons a day from a station which is located slightly over half a mile away. Should there be any contamination of the aquifer, it would impact not only the residents of Tilton, Northfield and Belmont, but also the New Hampshire Veterans Home and the whole economy of the Exit 20 area which relies solely on these wells for their water.

It is highly unlikely that this facility will ever move, but to allow it to more than quadruple its handling of trash and construction materials clearly increases the probability of future contamination of the aquifer. To us, it is not a question of whether the aquifer will be contaminated, but when, especially given that no one is making sure that all possible safeguards are in place, including monitoring wells.

We urge you to deny the Casella company the opportunity to quadruple its trash handling.

Regards,

Charles E. Mitchell, Chair  
Tilton Conservation Commission

*April 1, 2015*