

Addressing Concerns About the Canterbury Project
By Bill Herman, Chairman
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Since our recent op-ed piece in the Concord Sunday Monitor, we have received a number of private and published requests for further information concerning the proposed Canterbury landfill project. We hope the following information is helpful in addressing the expressed concerns, and to address mis-information that has been published..

1. **What about odors?** – The proposed landfill in Canterbury will be equipped with a state of the practice active gas management system designed to withdraw landfill gas for flaring and power generation, which destroys all odors from collected gases. After a period of operation the landfill gas will be used to power one or more turbines and produce electricity. Over the landfill’s life, the Cooperative is committed to applying additional state-of-the-practice operations and technologies as those continue to develop over time. The remote location of the landfill with respect to residential development will further help in limiting odor impacts. There is only one home within 2,000 feet of the Canterbury site. Of the other sites we investigated in detail in the 27 communities of the Cooperative, none had fewer than eleven homes within 2,000 feet.

2. **What about the active “oxbow” meander of the river?** – A professional review of the area of the Merrimack River by a nationally-recognized expert has found the inherent nature of the land at the site to be stable in the very long term with respect to river movements. There are substantial flaws in the engineering study commissioned by the Town of Canterbury and paid for by the Co-op, not the least of which was the use of an overly simple and inaccurate comparison of old and new maps of the general river site to draw conclusions about river movement. This comparison would have you believe that stationary objects that have been in place for more than a century have moved to a similar extent the river is suggested to have moved. This alterative estimate of historical river movement is clearly and unarguably wrong. The Co-op has been and remains fully supportive of the retention by NHDES of objective expert assistance in the review of these aspects of the project through the third party review of this issue.

3. **Will the landfill be visible from roadways and the river?** – The Cooperative has gone to great lengths to sculpt a landfill form into the site in a manner which will be as visually unobtrusive as possible. The Cooperative will not be constructing landfill improvements within 250 feet of the Merrimack River bank. Existing wooded vegetation will remain, providing a significant visual barrier. The height of the landfill has been limited, sacrificing capacity, to assure that the landfill is unobtrusive. We have prepared detailed 3-D computer models of the site to gauge the visibility from various vantage points. The model has been used

to prepare presentation graphics showing the long term view of the site from several remote vantage points. The landfill operation will not be visible from I-93 or the river in the vicinity of the site. Fifteen to twenty years after the start of operations, the landfill will be visible from the river about a mile north of the site (south of the abandoned steel bridge near the Boscawen recreation area). From this remote vantage point the filling operation will eventually rise above the treetops a mile distant to the south and appear as activity but the specific nature will not be discernable without telescopic equipment. When closed, the landfill view from this point of visibility will appear as a dirt and ultimately grass covered mound. The site will eventually be visible in the distance from two brief stretches of Route 4 in Boscawen -- one at the railroad crossing west of the Merrimack River to the south, and one from a vantage point over the red barn to the west of the site. The site will be visible from several hilltop homes in Canterbury to the east of I-93, about a mile distant from the site.

4. **Why doesn't the Cooperative recycle?** - The member municipalities of the Cooperative do recycle, each in its own manner. Many smaller municipalities maintain extensive recycling drop-off facilities, with recycling rates which are among the best in New Hampshire. Other larger municipalities provide curbside collection of waste, and curbside collection of recyclables has been slow to develop in some communities due to economics. To date, all specific recycling decisions have been made by individual communities, not by the Cooperative. However, the Cooperative has provided recycling incentives to its member municipalities to encourage their activity in this area. The Cooperative is now forming a long range plan to maximize recycling within the 27 municipalities, which will become more critical in the future as landfill capacity is a finite resource and its rate of utilization needs to be minimized in the interest of all. New recycling directions are being considered and will be decided upon in the coming months.
5. **Operating Noise** -- While there will be some operating noise from trucks and machinery at the site, the noise generated by this relatively low volume of traffic will be dwarfed by the noise that already exists from the thousands of motor vehicles traveling this stretch of I-93 on a daily basis.

In line with our op-ed piece, the Co-operative will be reaching out in the coming months to clarify concerns residents throughout the Cooperative communities might have, so continue to look for us. The Co-op strives to be an environmentally conscious organization looking for the best options for its members, We appreciate your interest and hope you will spread the word to those you know that the Co-op is open to all questions.