



## **For Immediate Release**

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### **North Country Alliance for Balanced Change review of wetland permit for Dalton dump finds environmental harm far exceeds failed Northern Pass project**

*North Country conservation organization urges state Department of Environmental Services to reject permit for Casella Waste Systems as regional opposition mounts to mega-landfill*

Dalton, N.H. [Nov. 20, 2020] – North Country Alliance for Balanced Change today strongly advised the state Department of Environmental Services Wetlands Bureau to reject a wetlands permit application for the so-called “Granite State Landfill,” citing deficiencies and threats to the fragile Ammonoosuc River watershed.

NCABC review of Casella Waste System’s application finds the 180-acre landfill in Dalton will destroy nearly 17 acres of wetland, five vernal pools and endanger water quality in the Alder Brook stream system and the Ammonoosuc River.

Expert review conducted for NCABC by Center Sandwich, NH-based Environmental Consultants of New England concludes that the Dalton dump “would have the largest amount of aquatic resource impacts of any project in the state for at least the past ten years.”

“It would also be seven times as much as the proposed impacts associated with the failed Northern Pass,” the consultant added in a Nov. 6 letter to state Inland Wetland Supervisor Craig Rennie.

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NCABC President Eliot Wessler said Casella's application fails to evaluate alternatives for the "mega-dump" and only considers four other potential sites – all in White Mountain towns.

"They did not consider any alternative sites anywhere else in New Hampshire or any other New England state," Wessler said. "I've offered to help them find large suitable sites for their next dump to be filled with all of New England's trash in or around Rutland, Vermont where Casella is headquartered. And the offer is still good."

For decades Casella has exploited a void in New Hampshire's regulatory and legislative willpower to adequately reduce, recycle and dispose of the state's solid waste by proposing and building massive landfills, Wessler said.

"It seems pretty clear to me why Casella picked Dalton-- a town with a small tax base, no zoning ordinance, a more than willing landowner, and virtually right next to all of the existing infrastructure of its Bethlehem dump," he said.

"In other words, Casella picked the cheapest place it could find, and destroying 17 acres of wetlands, locating a mega-dump right next to cherished Forest Lake State Park, and putting at risk the high quality of life for thousands of people in Dalton and surrounding towns be damned."

NCABC's written concerns to state regulators were cited in a Nov. 18 letter sent to Casella by state DES Commissioner Robert R. Scott requesting additional information regarding negative impacts the project may pose to wetlands, historic Forest Lake State Park and the region's tourism industry.

White Mountain opposition to the so-called Granite State Landfill is mounting. The Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee voted unanimously Oct. 1 to recommend the state reject Casella's wetlands permit for the proposed facility. The state advisory panel said the site is "not a suitable location" on many fronts. The Bethlehem Conservation Commission expressed similar concerns in a letter to DES dated Oct. 11.

"There is a long way to go before Casella is issued a wetlands permit, and NCABC and other civic groups that care about the environment and the quality of life in the North Country will be monitoring Casella's every move, and also every bit of DES oversight," Wessler said.

### **About NCABC**

*NCABC was formed in 2008 and works to advance initiatives and policies that balance the natural attributes and economic interests of Coos and northern Grafton counties. For more information about the organization, visit [northcountryabc.net](http://northcountryabc.net) or find us on Facebook and Twitter.*

