

Comment Letter on Landfill Expansion in Charles City County

To: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

As a resident of Virginia, I am deeply concerned about the devastating effects of the Waste Management landfill expansion permit.

I have just learned about this permit and even local residents who are most impacted are just learning of this permitting process. I request an extension of 60 days to the deadline for public comment because of the difficulties of in-person communication due to the risk of COVID during the pandemic, and there are unreliable internet and phone services in the rural areas surrounding this landfill.

Charles City County has been burdened with a landfill since the 1990s. County residents and other communities where Virginia sited landfills complain of odor, water pollution, erosion, and flooding. The most recent notice of violation with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) occurred in 2019. Thus I request public hearings and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) following based on the National Environmental Policy Act and using Environmental Justice protocols, as this is a minority-majority area and Virginia passed an Environmental Justice Act in 2020.

With regard to the permit application, my concerns include:

1. The impact on cultural and historical resources like Saint Mary's Church Battlefield and prehistoric archeological resources;
2. The loss of 3.31 acres of wetlands and 150 linear feet of stream channel, with payments for mitigation - who gets these funds and where will mitigation happen?
3. Runoff to the Chickahominy River and Bradley Run;
4. Additional flooding, with inundation of the area due to runoff from the landfill slope;
5. Public safety with additional truck traffic or flooding on roads;
6. Potential harm to public health from air and water pollution from landfills;
7. Proper consultation with the Chickahominy Tribe, who is federally recognized but did not have this status during the original permit;
8. Potential harm to fisheries and wildlife
9. The need for careful treatment of effluents and leachate; and

To: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Comment Letter on Landfill Expansion in Charles City County

10. The lack of information circulated in the surrounding community even a week before the public comment deadline. The New Kent - Charles City Chronicle is a weekly publication with limited circulation and other means of notification is necessary to reach impacted households.

Thank you for your consideration,