



## DANGERS OF A MEGA-LANDFILL TO ALL VIRGINIANS

### *Environmental Justice*

1. Areas selected are typically poorer and undeveloped.
2. Adjacent residents in such areas are dependent on private wells for water supply and have no reasonable options if their wells are contaminated.
3. Historical factors, such as family graves, war sites, cultural factors, and community values must be properly considered.
4. Environmental Impact Study must be conducted for any proposed landfill.

### *Water Concerns*

1. Contamination of waterways beyond the immediate mega-landfill site is likely.
2. Recent government reports concluded that all landfills will likely fail to contain pollutants and that wells in areas such as Cumberland adjacent to landfills will be contaminated.
3. Private wells are not protected from landfill contamination under current regulations, yet a majority of Virginia residents are dependent on well water.
4. Wetlands, which act as riparian buffers to pollutants entering the waterways, will be adversely affected.
5. Landfills should not be located in a zone of known seismic activity.
6. A thorough Floodplain Study must be undertaken before an application is approved.

### *Safety and Reciprocity Issues*

1. No landfill should be considered whose only access is from a two lane roadway.
2. Any consideration of a proposed landfill within two miles of a neighboring jurisdiction must get concurrence from that jurisdiction where it can show that it will experience certain adverse impacts.
3. VDOT Traffic Impact Study must be conducted for a proposed landfill.
4. Technology used for construction of landfills within Virginia is obsolete and has not been reviewed or updated in over 20 years.

### **NEEDED CHANGES TO VIRGINIA LANDFILL REGULATION**

1. Distinguish between regular landfills and mega-landfills and set appropriate standards for each category.
2. Update the technology requirements for construction of landfills as related to liners, leachate collection/treatment and location to protect watersheds from toxic runoff and leakage.
3. Strengthen and limit the types of acceptable garbage.
4. Add protection of private wells from contamination by landfills.
5. Require leachate be treated on site prior to exiting the landfill site onto Virginia highways.
6. Require an independent Environmental Impact Study and Environmental Justice Study be completed prior to the approval of the landfill by the State authority.
7. Establish standards for access to the landfill, *i.e.*, not on a heavily traveled two-lane road.
8. Prohibit landfill construction in any seismic zone.
9. Allow for concurrence by adjoining jurisdictions which are directly and materially impacted by the construction of the landfill prior to approval.

Submitted by: Cumberland County Landfill Alert (CCLA)  
lovecentralva.com - 804-308-5748