West Old Town Landfill Project Timeline 2003-2004

Detailed timeline related to the West Old Town Landfill project March 2003 to October 21, 2004.

Sources: The timeline is based on documents received by the compiler (Paul Schroeder) and other members of We The People / Against The Dump through Freedom of Information Access requests to state and local government agencies, the official record of Maine Department of Environmental Protection review of the project, news sources and other communications. Sources for every entry in the timeline are provided. If sources are absent, mistaken, are to a superceded document etc., please inform the compiler.

About the Timeline

This file was created with the aim of creating an orderly overview of a very complex process. Not all entries are equally detailed, nor are all events included in this document. For instance, examples of events not included are: various meetings of We The People (including the excellent bean supper in Hudson and the great Country Sunday events in Alton); every news article (now numbering at least 50); activities related to fact finding, such as visits to the State Archives and video taping of overweight trucks going over the I-395 bridge; and the many documents and events around what must now be called the "first dump" that was licensed in 1993.

This timeline begins in March, 2003, what seems to be (from what we have pieced together) when this idea first came about, not surprisingly as part of another paper mill bailout, that of GNP in Millinocket. It ends on October 21, 2004, the date the Board of Environmental Protection ruled 7-1 against the appeals of the dump opponents.

So, the file can be seen as the current contemporary historical record of the dump project as of the end of the administrative appeal process. Perhaps it will be supplemented with a new timeline of the events going forward.

Here are a few words about how this document is generally set up and arranged. All quotations from documents are within quotation marks. That is, if something is not in quotations, it's a paraphrase or something similarly inexact, and always open to interpretation and correction. Even what is in quotations might not be right, since not all documents tell the truth, and newspapers sometimes inaccurately quote people or state the facts. Comments added by the compiler should be clear from context or are explicitly included as follows: [NB ..] Unless within quotations, use of first person "I" is understood to mean the compiler. In some cases, entries are based on photocopies of handwritten notes provided from agencies. Effort has been made to correctly attribute these notes; however, in some instances inaccurate attributions may have been made. In most cases, probably, for handwritten notes we can just say "notes of someone in the

Governor's office" or something equally vague; the contents of the notes probably would not change much no matter who is writing them.

This file was prepared automatically using the Axon Idea Processor software. Click here for a snapshot of the graphic timeline chart. Because the printout was automatically generated in number order by date, and then by first letter of the event's title, there may be some days in which the actual events of the day are not in the actual order in hours and minutes. In some cases these have been fixed when found; others may need further editing.

This file was compiled by Paul Schroeder, Common Coordinates, P.O. Box 360, Stillwater, ME, 04489 / (207) 866-7766 / pauls@commoncoordinates.com, who is responsible for its contents. If any item included here is known to be in error, please contact me with the correct information. Please also contact me if you have ideas for filling in some of the blanks. I have tried to be totally accurate in what I am presenting here. I am firmly opposed to the dump, so there certainly are biases in selection of some sort, and there are certainly statements of opinion and questions that are my additions and not part of the timeline contents. In some cases my interpretations may be wrong or my questions totally misdirected. Please let me know.

Most recent file version: Oct. 20, 2004. Last modified: Oct. 24, 2004