



Mount Ascutney Local River Subcommittee

New Hampshire – Plainfield, Cornish, Claremont, Charlestown
Vermont – Hartland, Windsor, Weathersfield, Springfield, Rockingham

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Lebanon, NH 03766
603-727-9484

deForest Bearse
Resource Coordinator, City of Claremont Planning & Development Department
14 North Street, Claremont NH 03743
603-504-0341

March 13, 2020

Re: Proposed C&D Debris Transfer Station in Claremont NH

Dear deForest Bearse,

The Connecticut River Joint Commissions Mount Ascutney local river subcommittee, at their March 10, 2020 meeting, agreed to submit a comment letter to the City of Claremont in regards to the proposed C&D debris transfer station. Overall, the risk of large amounts of C&D debris (est. 300-500 tons per day) converging and emitting by truck and rail car from one location, approximately one mile from the Connecticut River with a tributary running within 150 feet of the parcel, is of serious concern. We have serious concerns about ecologically hazardous materials (e.g. lead, arsenic, grit) escaping the site or while in transit and making its way into the Connecticut River. The following highlights specific comments and questions on the project in relation to its potential impact to the Connecticut River.

- Some construction and demolition debris might be clean enough for re-use, but likely not clean enough for the river. Adjacent to the proposed facility is a wetland and stream, Meadow Brook which runs into the Connecticut River, and highlights to us that this is a risky location. It is questionable whether measures implemented to curb impacts would actually be sufficient, such as a drainage plan with contaminant trapping.
- The use of rail cars and trucks in the receiving of debris and distribution of processed materials could have impacts to the Connecticut River. The increased use of river-side roads by heavy trucks to the facility on a daily basis (estimates of 50-70 truckloads per day, six days a week) raises concerns about road wear that might impact the Connecticut River. Would trucks limit their use of roads that run alongside the Connecticut River, especially those with existing concerns about stream bank erosion? Also, trucks and rail cars have the potential to scatter potentially hazardous materials during transit. We have serious concerns about whether precautions taken would be sufficient and effectively monitored.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments as you evaluate the proposal.

Sincerely,

Olivia Uyizeye, On behalf of the CRJC Mount Ascutney local river subcommittee

Cc: City of Claremont NH Zoning Board of Adjustment, Chairman Michael Hurd; New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Tracie Sales