



Don't Undermine Memphremagog's Purity, Inc.

Annual Meeting

October 29, 2025

www.nolakedump.org

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Don't Undermine Memphremagog's Purity, Inc. Annual Meeting

October 29, 2025
4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

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| 4:30 pm | Meet & Greet. |
| 4:45 pm | Call to Order. |
| 4:45 pm | Welcome and Introductions.
Thank you Annual Meeting Committee members
Introduction of Board members
Introduction of MCI representatives |
| 4:50 pm | Highlights of DUMP's Activities. |
| 5:00 pm | Here's how you can help.
DUMP Committees:
Communications/Public Education/Outreach
Development Committee
Regulatory Affairs Committee
Annual Dues |
| 5:15 pm | Guest Speaker.
Jon Swan, Save Forest Lake
Q & A Session to follow |
| 6:15 pm | Wrap up: Feedback for DUMP. |
| 6:30 pm | Adjourn. |



Don't Undermine Memphremagog's Purity, Inc. Annual Meeting Report October 29, 2025

Don't Undermine Memphremagog's Purity, Inc. (DUMP) is an all-volunteer grassroots organization that initially brought people together to oppose the expansion of the Coventry Landfill in 2018. DUMP also participated in gathering signatures for the Petition to have Lake Memphremagog declared a Lake in Crisis. As an all-volunteer group we are continuing efforts to hold the line on further expansion and to keep an eye on operational and construction activities at the Coventry Landfill.

DUMP's Board of Directors and active members have been working towards DUMP's mission of protecting, preserving and restoring Lake Memphremagog and its watershed. DUMP's objective, which is shared with Quebec counterpart, Memphremagog Conservation Inc., is to assure that the current prohibition on treatment or disposal of landfill leachate anywhere in the Memphremagog watershed is permanent.

International Lake Memphremagog is a primary drinking water source for over 175,000 Canadian residents. It is long settled international law, national law, and Vermont state law that drinking water reservoirs are to be protected from the threat of organic or chemical pollution. The poor siting of the Coventry landfill, surrounded on three sides by wetlands, within one mile of northern flowing Lake Memphremagog, and within 675 feet of the Black River, is a clear threat to ground and surface waters. The EPA has stated, " All landfill liners eventually leak... *due to natural deterioration*." The Coventry landfill, under modern EPA siting guidelines, would *likely* not be permitted to be sited where it is today, adjacent to extensive wetlands and in close proximity to both the Black River and the South Bay, which flow into Lake Memphremagog.

Recent Actions:

- **Regulatory Action:** In 2025, DUMP continues to pursue transparency in the regulatory process by holding state government and NEWSVT (Casella), the owner of the Coventry landfill, accountable for their collaboration in operating a SAFF (Surface Active Foam Fractionation) leachate pretreatment experiment, as a "pilot", attempting to filter "forever" PFAS chemicals embedded in landfill leachate. Although the pilot will not officially begin until the second quarter of 2026, this system has been fully operational since 2023, operating contrary to SAFF manufacturer's instructions that it be only one step in a treatment train ending in a PFAS destruction technology, not operated as a stand-alone system. In February 2024, a leachate spill of more than 8,000 gallons occurred when no staff were present on site, a near miss of an environmental catastrophe. Hazardous PFAS residuals are being dumped back into the landfill, which accumulate into an even higher concentration of PFAS contaminated leachate, inevitably creating an ever greater threat to the environment and public health.
- **Legal Action:** Act 250's District 7 Commission has sided with DUMP, ruling in a Jurisdictional Opinion (JO) that an amended permit is required for the SAFF system to operate permanently. The State Land Use Review Board has concurred. NEWSVT has appealed the Act 250 Jurisdictional Opinion, and the matter now resides with the State Environmental Court. DUMP's position is that Northeast Kingdom residents deserve a

public hearing to learn of the implications of, and state their objections to, a totally private landfill leachate treatment in their region. See the DUMP website <https://www.nolakedump.org> for a more thorough discussion of the issue.

- **Legislative Advocacy:** DUMP is sounding the alarm on the environmental injustice of siting Vermont's only landfill in Coventry. Just 7% of the 129-acre trash mountain (literally), comes from the combined population of the Northeast Kingdom's three counties. 73% is generated by the population of the rest of the state of Vermont. 16% to 20% is trucked in from out of state sources, and includes toxic municipal wastewater sludge, containing, "forever" PFAS chemicals that are harmful to health, and other contaminated wastes.

DUMP continues to advocate for an updated, comprehensive Solid Waste Policy for Vermont, which is close to 40 years old, having been passed by the legislature in 1987. DUMP is advocating for publicly owned regional waste disposal sites nearest to population centers in Vermont generating the most waste. DUMP, through its research, knowledge and understanding of issues related to solid waste management and operations, has earned the respect of state regulators. The Solid Waste Division has recently invited DUMP to provide its perspective on the effects of the landfill on the regional environment and people at the third of a series of meetings on Vermont's Future Disposal Capacity.

- **Organizational Update:** Don't Undermine Memphremagog's Purity, Inc. is a Vermont non-profit corporation and was approved by the Internal Revenue Service, as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit entity.
- **Educational Efforts:** DUMP, through a series of well attended public educational meetings has raised awareness with citizens and legislators about the inequities and threats posed by the Landfill. We have highlighted concerns about leachate pollution to the watershed's natural resources and to the public health of Vermonters and Canadians.
- **Recognition:** The Gordon-Kohl Memorial Award was presented by MCI in June 2025 recognizing the efforts of DUMP, "which has contributed in an exceptional manner, by their personal commitment and dedication, to the protection of the environment for the benefit of current and future generations."
- **Future Activities:** DUMP will continue to fight for environmental justice in the Northeast Kingdom. The Board and members will continue to monitor and hold the private landfill owner/operator, and state regulators accountable for evidence-based, impartial, and environmentally sound decisions. DUMP members will continue to hold educational meetings, and write opinions and letters to the editor to the local and Vermont press. DUMP will also continue its communications with local legislators.

DUMP monitors NEWSVT's reports, permit applications, and other official correspondence submitted to State agencies. DUMP members have written hundreds of pages of testimony, submitted written comments, and has participated in dozens of public hearings, testifying to the dangers posed by this poorly sited landfill.

DUMP has engaged in five legal actions. The first, in 2018-19, was DUMP's appeal of the Phase VI, 51-acre landfill expansion certification issued by the ANR Waste Management and Prevention Division (WMPD), which went to mediation. As part of the resulting Settlement Agreement, NEWSVT agreed not to seek treatment or disposal of Landfill leachate at the Newport City Wastewater Treatment Facility for four years. That prohibition currently remains in effect as a condition of NEWSVT's permit. However, NEWSVT may apply for an amendment to that condition at any time.¹

DUMP advocates that it is imperative to protect drinking water from contamination whether through accident, neglect, or deliberate action. As long as the Coventry landfill is permitted to operate (and for many decades after closing), the threat of toxic pollution to the watershed will continue.

We wish to thank all volunteers and financial donors for their support of DUMP's mission in protecting the waters and watershed of Lake Memphremagog.

Signed,

Chris Jacobs, Chair
Ed Stanak, Vice Chair
Ann Lembo, Secretary
Teresa Gerade, Treasurer
Effie Brown
Gillian Staniforth

Board of Directors
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¹ The ban on the disposal of leachate at the Newport WWTF, or anywhere in the Memphremagog watershed is found in condition 18 of Land Use Permit (LUP) 7R0841-13 issued by the Act 250 District 7 Commission, which It should be noted that DUMP obtained "Friend of the Commission" status for its testimony in the 7R0841-13 proceeding. A Canadian Council of Government (MRC) with party status, together with DUMP, argued against the landfill expansion.

ADDENDUM

The five legal actions/appeals mentioned in the Annual Report are:

1. 2018-2019. Opposition to the WMPD Certification for the Phase 6 expansion. DUMP appealed the permit that was issued, and the appeal was settled following mediation with NEWSVT.
2. 2023-2024. Opposition to the Amended Pretreatment Discharge Permit that was the renewal of the expired Permit and which imposed "Special Condition 5" that set in motion the requirement for dealing with the PFAS content of the leachate. DUMP appealed *pro se* and also sought a transparent master plan from NEWSVT.
3. 2023-2024. Appeal of the Declaratory Ruling issued by the Secretary of ANR in response to DUMP's petition for a DR regarding the UD#3 discharge; DUMP's position sought a ruling by the Secretary of ANR that the UD#3 discharge required NEWSVT to apply for an NPDES permit.
4. 2023-2024. Appeal of the denial of the District Commission of DUMP's request for party status and a hearing on the Act 250 amendment application requesting approval of the UD#3 PFAS treatment system.
5. 2025-Current. Participating with the LURB in opposition to NEWSVT's appeal of the Act 250 Jurisdictional Opinion.