



Memphremagog
Conservation inc.

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate distribution

Attention Publicity directors

Memphremagog Conservation Inc. is asking the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, an international organization, to investigate the Coventry landfill expansion project

Magog, July 7th – Memphremagog Conservation Inc. (MCI) has been fighting for months against the issuance of the certification that could be issued any time now to *New England Waste Service of Vermont Inc* (NEWSVT) to allow them to expand the landfill site in Coventry, in close proximity to Lake Memphremagog, a drinking water reservoir for more than 175,000 Eastern Townships residents.

On Friday, MCI submitted a communication to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), an international organization that promotes cooperation between Canada, the United States and Mexico, and that examines the environmental issues of concern to these three countries.

The communication criticizes the certification expected to be given for the expansion of the Coventry landfill. Given the lack of information on the actual impact of the contaminants from the landfill on Lake Memphremagog, as well as the potential impact of its expansion on water quality, new studies are needed in order to ascertain its impact as well as that of the treatment of leachate, often called "garbage juice", on water quality in Lakes Memphremagog and Magog and the Magog river. In fact, the leachate collected at the landfill, of which 15,000 gallons are treated daily at the Newport wastewater treatment plant, contains numerous chemicals, including PFAS, and is dumped into Lake Memphremagog's watershed. The potential for irreversible damage exists, given that the lake is a major Canadian source of drinking water. In the case of a natural disaster, such as an earthquake, torrential rain or landslide, the proximity of the Coventry landfill site in Vermont to Lake Memphremagog would be disastrous for water quality.

That said, MCI is asking the CEC to investigate the Coventry landfill expansion project as well as the various laws involved. In order to respect the *Boundary Waters Treaty*, it is essential to carry out serious studies with the aim of identifying the impact of the landfill and the treatment of the leachate discharged into Lake Memphremagog on its water quality.

About MCI:

Memphremagog Conservation Inc. (MCI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to working for the protection, conservation and improvement of Lake Memphremagog and its watershed for the benefit of current and future generations.

MCI works in concert with the various governmental and other organizations, as well as with private citizens to carry out concrete actions.

MCI relies mainly on its scientific knowledge to inform, raise awareness and empower the various actors to ensure the environmental health of Lake Memphremagog and its watershed.

Attached:

1. The communication submitted by MCI to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation
2. Letters sent by MCI to the Government of Vermont about the Coventry landfill expansion project

Source :

Robert Benoit

Volunteer president of Memphremagog Conservation Inc.

Telephone: 819-868-1369 local 1

Cell: 819 821-0711

Email: robertbenoit1944@gmail.com

Ariane Orjikh

General Manager, Memphremagog Conservation Inc.

51 Cabana, Magog, Qc, J1X 2C4

819-574-2880

Email: ariane.orjikh@memphremagog.org

www.memphremagog.org