



APPENDIX B1 - Summary

Lake Memphremagog Leachate Overdose and Environmental Justice

The share of solid waste from residents of the Lake Memphremagog basin that would be buried at the Coventry site would be at most 5%.

From 1993 to 2023 over a period of 31 years, the volume of leachate generated at the Coventry site is estimated to be approximately 214,500,000 gallons. Of this volume, approximately 30%, 64,250,000 gallons, would have been sent to Newport WWTF without any prior pretreatment.

We, residents of the Lake Memphremagog Basin, therefore find ourselves with an excess of leachate which comes from waste from other basins in Vermont and even up to 20% from waste from other neighboring states. This OVERDOSE of leachate, known as garbage juice constitutes an unacceptable BURDEN which must not be added to the BURDEN of this mountain of waste which will be there for decades and centuries to come. Long-term management of this solid waste which contains many contaminants will be required well beyond the 30 years post-closure.

Having to manage this solid waste for such a long time, residents of the Lake Memphremagog basin must not add the BURDEN of leachate which must be borne by the other producers of their waste buried in Coventry.

In 2022, the state of Vermont adopted No. 154. An act relating to environmental justice in Vermont (S148). Here is an extract on the environmental burden that must be equitably distributed:

(3) **“Environmental justice”** means all individuals are afforded equitable access to and distribution of environmental benefits; **equitable distribution of environmental burdens**; and fair and equitable treatment and meaningful participation in decision-making processes, including the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

For the people of Vermont living in Lake Memphremagog basin, does having on its territory the only active landfill site for solid waste disposal in Vermont NOT constitute an « equitable distribution of environmental BURDENS »?

And doesn't this same principle of ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE also apply to the 175,000 Canadians who draw their drinking water from Lake Memphremagog?