



## APPENDIX D1 - Summary

### Capacity of Lake Champlain watershed to better accept leachate from the Coventry landfill

MCI presents the following arguments which show that the Lake Champlain watershed is a more appropriate destination for final disposition of the Coventry leachate than the Lake Memphremagog watershed.

#### **Technical arguments: greater treatment capacity in Montpelier than in Newport**

The leachate is currently being sent for treatment to the Montpelier waste treatment plant in the Lake Champlain watershed roughly 100 Km (62 miles) from Coventry. The treatment capacity of the Montpelier plant is triple that of the Newport plant. Most of the leachate has been treated in Montpelier since 1992. It is only from 2009 to 2019 that a fraction of the leachate was sent to Newport. Limitations on arsenic and the organic content have limited the maximum volumes that can be treated. Thus, on a technical level, Montpelier is preferable to Newport to better incorporate the leachate, and to reduce the concentration of contaminants in the discharge from the Montpelier plant.

#### **Environmental arguments: Better capacity to incorporate leachate as the flow is higher and the route to the aquatic border is longer**

The very long aquatic route in Lake Champlain of more than 170 km (105 miles) before the Canada/US border compared to the rather short distance of 8 km (5 miles) between the Newport plant and the border ensures a greater probability of retaining the contaminants in the American portion of Lake Champlain.

As well, the flow of the Richelieu river is triple that of the Magog river. A better dilution is ensured for the remaining contaminants in the leachate that will reach the aquatic Canada/US border.

#### **Equitable argument: The majority of the garbage sent to Coventry comes from residents of the Lake Champlain basin**

The Coventry landfill receives roughly 80% of its garbage from Vermont and the rest from neighbouring states, including New York. More than 95% of the garbage comes from populations and activities outside of the American portion of the Lake Memphremagog watershed. If the American portion of the Lake Memphremagog watershed somehow got stuck with Vermont's only operational solid and other waste landfill site, does it have the obligation to also accept the dumping of leachate, even pretreated, in our surface waters? For equity's sake, shouldn't the leachate definitely be handled by the major generators of the garbage buried at the Coventry landfill, who are outside the Lake Memphremagog watershed and principally in that of Lake Champlain?

**MCI objectives are simple and clear:**

**to have Newport WWTF removed «forever» from the NEWSVT Coventry list of leachate destination even after treatment and have the leachate final destination out of Lake Memphremagog basin «forever».**

What is the state of Vermont's position on MCI's request to completely ban the disposal of raw, pretreated or treated leachate from the NEWSVT Coventry site to the Newport WWTF or elsewhere in the Lake Memphremagog basin?