

Linda J. Butler
Licensing and Compliance Specialist, Div. of Technical Services
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0017

Dear Mrs. Linda J. Butler,

My Name is Tony Charette with Douglas W. Jones Inc. DBA Cross Excavation. I am writing this letter in support of WMDSM's phase 14 expansion and public benefit determination.

Douglas W. Jones Inc. is a 50 plus employee company based in Bethel, Maine. About half of our companies staff is involved with our operating of three large horizontal grinders and fleet of 15 or so tractor/live floor trailer combinations. Our crews concentrate on wood waste recycling whether that be forest residuals for biomass or forms of construction debris for different forms of reuse. Our trucks are used for hauling these materials to multiple facilities.

Douglas W. Jones Inc. relationship with WMDSM started roughly four years ago with the hauling of bypass material from MMWAC of Auburn to Crossroads Landfill in Norridgewock. For this task our company furnishes five or so trailers at MMWAC where they are loaded by a Waste Management employee at which time our trucks and drivers transport material to Crossroads landfill. These loads are materials which cannot be processed through MMWAC's burners. We also provide support in excessively busy times of year with the influx of seasonal visitors to the MMWAC member communities. We also provide support for both scheduled outages and unforeseen failures or needed repairs. With Fiberright coming on line we hope to do some similar services in Hampden.

Our company's relationship has since grown into many other opportunities. We are now contracted with WM to process telephone poles with our grinders into a material used for cover at Crossroads. With this additional business came transporting of single stream recycling collected at Crossroads primarily to ECO Maine for processing. We also provide onsite collection with live floor trailers, dump trailers, as well as dump trucks. These projects range from contaminated soil cleanup many of which are DEP projects to demolition projects. Our most recent project has involved hauling material for a local contractor supplying material to cap phase 11. Waste management has proven to value good contractors who provide good service.

As a businessman who lives and breathes the waste world every day I have a few observations I would like to note. We all support recycling both for our environment as well as increased opportunities it provides us involved with waste disposal. However our recycling is still dependent on foreign markets whether we like it or not which has been proven to be volatile at best. With all recycling processes there are residuals. Our state and beyond only have so many “end sites” all of which do not have extra capacity. Most of which I am referring to are incinerators all of these too have residual waste. As an insider to the waste streams I feel WMDSM’s expansion is imperative to our state to maintain a healthy waste stream!

Along with all of the communities and residents our company is just one of many who will benefit from the phase 14 expansion. These businesses provide good paying jobs that allow people to own homes and comfortably raise their families. We all run extremely expensive trucks and equipment all of which we pay our 5.5% sales tax, 12% FET, and yearly local excise tax on. As a large consumer of fuel I would find it to be extremely difficult to imagine the state being able to keep the roads up without all the road use taxes paid at the pump by trucks. Along with all these taxes we buy our trucks, equipment, and supplies in state whenever possible. I urge my drivers whenever possible to buy their fuel local to Norridgewock as well. With Norridgewock being my start or stop location of so many trucks it has allowed me to hire employees local to Norridgewock.

In conclusion, I cannot urge folks enough to support the phase 14 expansion. In my experiences Waste Management is the best type of Customer you could ask for! They are truly so committed to doing the “right thing” be it safety, public perception, or compliance with the rules and regulations. When such a large company with so much to lose lives up to these standards they allow a small company like ourselves to charge honest money for good quality service. This trickles down to better wages and better equipment to do the job. In turn we can employ more and better people also allowing us to upgrade and maintain equipment with local companies. I cannot speak any higher of the folks working for WM at the Crossroad facility. They are truly a family and over the years I as well as other employees feel like family to them as well. These are great hardworking people owning homes and raising families. Of all my customers the folks at Crossroads care more about what they do and go above and beyond insuring that we too can be successful in our partnership. Although Waste Management may be a large publically held corporation the good folks at Crossroads are deeply embedded in the community and all who do business with them. I urge you to grant the phase 14 expansion for so many reasons!

Yours truly,
Tony Charette GM