

**TOWN OF TEMPLETON  
SELECT BOARD**  
**160 Patriots Road, P.O. Box 620**  
**EAST TEMPLETON, MASSACHUSETTS 01438**  
**TEL: (978) 894-2755**

December 28, 2022

Beth A. Card, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)  
Attn: MEPA Office  
EEA No. TBD  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Secretary Card,


Congratulations on your appointment in May 2022! We, the Select Board of Templeton, are writing to you today relative to the 4.3-acre 850 West Street Landfill Expansion Project, or commonly known as the "Sludge Landfill Expansion" in Gardner, MA. We currently have a great intermunicipal relationship with Mayor Nicholson and several of his city departments; we would like to continue this, but we are writing as we are pressed with the EEA deadline of January 12<sup>th</sup>.

A Templeton Village, East Templeton, not only shares a border with Gardner and the proposed expansion, but this village is currently serviced by Gardner's Waste Water Plant and therefore interlinked with the project as a whole. We would also like to further describe our town's proximity to the landfill by offering that 2 of our 4 town fresh water wells are in relatively close proximity, hydrologically speaking. We have had 2 public meetings where various experts (from our own water and sewer department), local abutters, and concerned residents offered observations, support, and opposition. We share many of these concerns and ask you to investigate and provide oversight in this matter. Our Town Administrator sent a letter dated August 4, 2022 to the Gardner Conservation Commission with our succinct but direct concerns with no response.

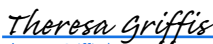
The environmental impact of the existing sludge landfill and proposed expansion are a potential threat to our wells and wetlands. We understand the technical sureties of this project, but we are still concerned with the process of compliance, hazard mitigation, and potential liability in the event of a containment breach. We understand that the Gardner DPW Water and Sewer's fact sheet on the project identifies that an Analysis of Alternatives was conducted and 8 other projects were considered; we were never consulted concerning these, nor impacts in the event of a leakage, however unlikely. With respect to risk mitigation, we would petition the project owners to offer a Hazard Mitigation plan, reviewed by experts and selected emergency management officials that is based in likelihood and severity of a possible containment breach.

Finally, we understand that the Gardner Conservation Commission approval vote of 14 November 2022 was not unanimous. We hope you will take these concerns into consideration. We wish for our water to be clean and safe! Our Town Administrator can be reached at [alamontagne@templetonma.gov](mailto:alamontagne@templetonma.gov). Thank you!

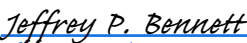
SELECT BOARD,

  
[Timothy Toth \(Jan 6, 2023 21:28 EST\)](#)


Timothy Toth, Chair


  
[Theresa Griffis \(Jan 5, 2023 21:50 EST\)](#)

Theresa Griffis, Clerk

  
[Jeffrey P. Bennett \(Jan 7, 2023 09:51 EST\)](#)

Jeffrey Bennett, Member

  
Michael Currie, Vice Chair

  
[Julie Richard \(Jan 6, 2023 15:24 EST\)](#)

Julie Richard, Member