

City Manager..... (802) 334-5136
City Clerk / Treasurer..... 334-2112
Public Works..... 334-2124
Zoning Adm. / Assessor..... 334-6992
Recreation / Parks..... 334-6345
Fax..... 334-5632

June 3, 2019



City of Newport
222 Main Street
Newport, Vermont 05855
www.newportvermont.org

Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD)
1021 Redmond Road
Williston, Vt. 05495-7729

Dear Sarah

The City of Newport has read with interest the article that appeared on Vermont Public Radio's web page on May 1, 2019, attached, and the article and copy of the NOAV dated April 12, 2018, that appeared in Vermont Digger on May 29, 2019, also attached.

As you know, Act 148 requires haulers who provide curbside rubbish pick up also provide curbside recycling services. It is our understanding that the recycling collected by haulers in our area is delivered to your facility for further processing. The City of Newport residents and businesses have been faithfully recycling believing they are making a positive contribution to our environment by lessening the amount of waste and increasing the amount of recyclables. The City has also encouraged recycling and waste diversion through the educational and outreach requirements of our SWIP.

The NOAV and recent articles are concerning, and we are unclear how storing recycled glass or utilizing glass to stabilize an embankment at your closed landfill facility would constitute as recycling. It is also unclear to us why your District reported the destination of the glass to ANR as used in "local projects" in lieu of its actual use and destination.

We would like to continue to emphasize to our residents and businesses the importance of recycling and justify the costs they are incurring (especially with the recent increases in tip fees at your facility) to ensure their items are being recycled. We are formally requesting an explanation and confirmation from CSWD that the recycling, mainly glass, collected from the City of Newport is and has been recycled.

We look forward to your response. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Paul L. Monette, Mayor
City of Newport

Cc: Agency of Natural Resources, CSWD Board Members, Senate Natural Resources Committee, Coventry, Vt., Derby, Vt., Governor Phil Scott, T.J. Donovan, Attorney General, Senator Robert Starr, Senator John Rodgers, Representative Mike Marcotte, Representative Woodman Page, Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District board



(<https://www.vpr.org>)

[s://donate.vpr.org/?utm_source=donate-button&utm_medium=website&utm_content=&utm_campaign=ongoing](https://donate.vpr.org/?utm_source=donate-button&utm_medium=website&utm_content=&utm_campaign=ongoing))



Listen Live · VPR
On Point

LOADING...



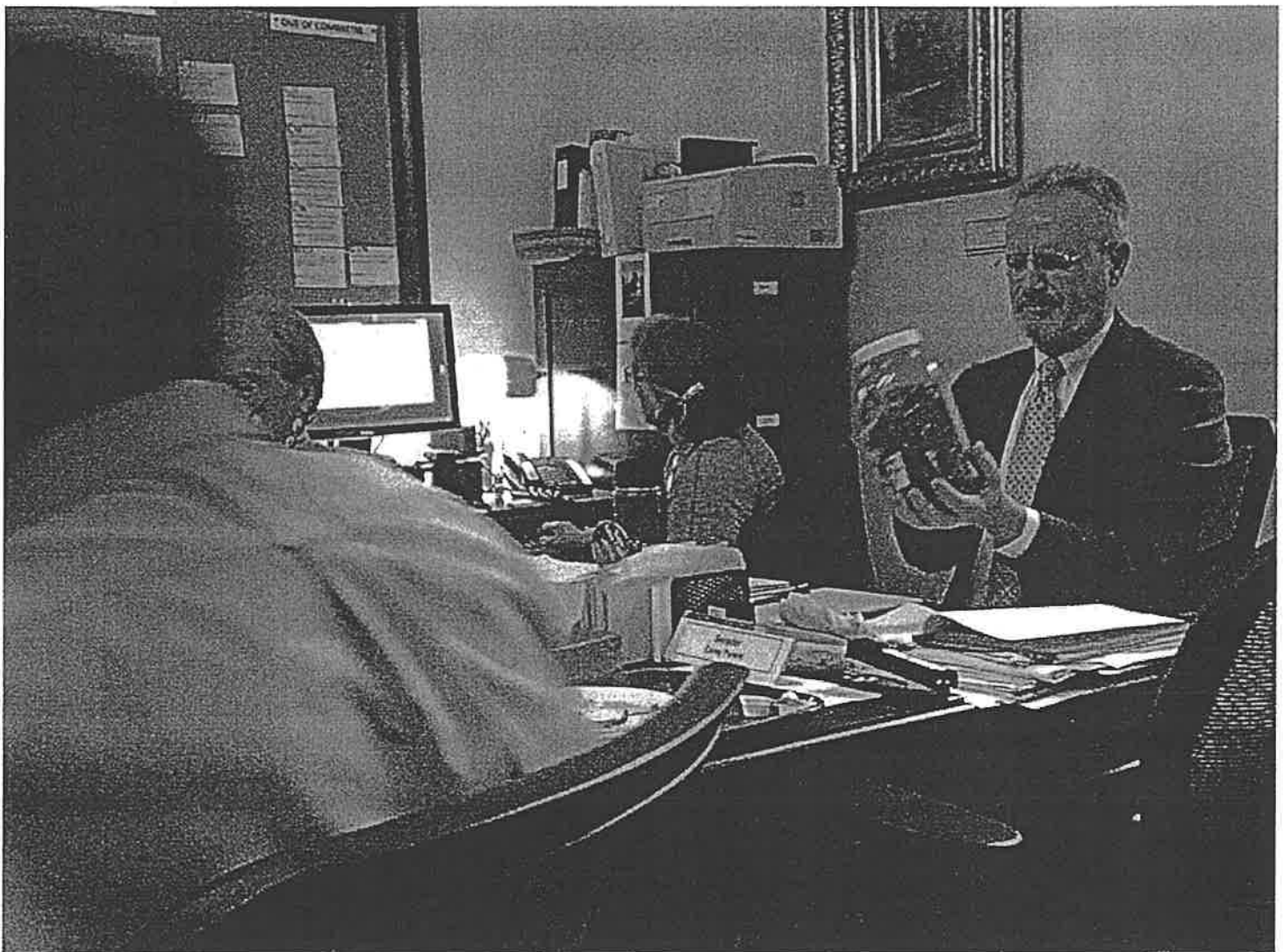
[VPR News \(/programs/vpr-news\)](/programs/vpr-news)

Vt. Senate Committee Looks At Allegations That CSWD Dumped Glass Instead Of Recycling It

By [JOHN DILLON \(/PEOPLE/JOHN-DILLON\)](#) • MAY 1, 2019

f Share (<http://facebook.com/sharer.php?>

u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fy2dgek3d&t=Vt.%20Senate%20Committee%20Looks%20At%20Allegations%20That%20



([//www.vpr.org/sites/vpr/files/styles/x_large/public/201905/GlassIssue-SenateCommittee_Dillon_0501.jpg](https://www.vpr.org/sites/vpr/files/styles/x_large/public/201905/GlassIssue-SenateCommittee_Dillon_0501.jpg))

Sen. Christopher Bray, the chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, examines a jar of crushed glass allegedly dumped at an unlicensed facility in Williston.

JOHN DILLON / VPR

The state is investigating the Chittenden Solid Waste District for allegedly dumping glass it collects from northern Vermont instead of recycling the material as required.

The state put the district on notice

(https://www.vpr.org/sites/vpr/files/noav.cswdglass.2018.04.12__1_.pdf) last year that it had allegedly violated environmental laws. The allegations resurfaced Wednesday in a Senate committee; Chittenden Solid Waste District officials say they have not done anything wrong.

John Brabant was a state regulator on waste issues for 25 years and now works for Vermonters for a Clean Environment, an activist group.

Earlier this week, Brabant tapped into his expertise and explored a closed landfill in Williston. He said he found an unlicensed dump, piled with thousands of tons of crushed glass that was supposedly recycled.

The former regulator brought back photos and videos of the site, plus a little show-and-tell for the Senate Natural Resources Committee: large Mason jars full of crushed glass and chunks of plastic.

The Chittenden Solid Waste District owns the site. Brabant said the district apparently dumped truckloads of the material over a steep bank.

"It's an amazingly large dump," Brabant said. "This stuff, because it does not meet the exemption provided under the PGA – the processed glass aggregate exemption policy – it is then regulated as a solid waste. It must therefore go to a solid waste management facility that is certified. This is not one that's certified."

"It's an amazingly large dump." — John Brabant, Vermonters for a Clean Environment

Here's the thing about glass: It's an inert waste, meaning it doesn't break down into anything nasty or poisonous. It's heavy, so it's expensive to truck and store. Finally, there's not much of a market these days for that empty wine bottle you toss into your recycling bin.

Most glass that gets recycled doesn't get made into new glass containers. It's often crushed and used as sand in construction projects.

Essex-Orleans Sen. John Rodgers said the state policy around glass disposal doesn't make sense. He argued the glass should be landfilled until recycling markets improve. Instead, he said, haulers in the Northeast Kingdom are required to truck it to Chittenden County and pay the district to dispose of it.

“So not only are we driving huge amounts of miles and burning fuel that we shouldn't be burning, but we're also having to pay the tipping fee, and then Chittenden County Solid Waste was illegally dumping it,” Rodgers said.

Solid waste district officials disagree with the allegations of wrongdoing. When pressed by Rodgers, Jennifer Holliday — the district's director of public policy — told the committee that she could not comment on the notice of alleged violation, known as an NOAV, that the state issued last April.

“So why was the stuff dumped?” Rodgers asked. “Was there just no market for it at that time?”

“I don't want to comment on that current NOAV right now,” Holliday told him. “We disagree with the NOAV. It would take a lot of in-depth conversation, and I don't want to get into that.”

"I don't want to comment on that current NOAV [notice of alleged violation] right now. We disagree with the NOAV." — Jennifer Holliday, Chittenden Solid Waste District

Chittenden Solid Waste District executive director Sarah Reeves said her staff is working with the state to resolve the issue. In an email, she said, “it's not accurate to describe the discussions we're having with them as an investigation.”

The notice of alleged violation says the district has dumped thousands of cubic yards of crushed glass at two locations on the district's property. The document says the district did not have approval to put it there, and that quarterly reports filed with the state incorrectly stated that the material has been used for “local projects.”

The district was also ordered to either remove the glass or obtain the proper approval from the state to put it there.

The issue is not resolved. An Agency of Natural Resources official told senators that the case has been referred to the Attorney General's Office.

TAGS: [ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT \(/TERM/ENERGY-ENVIRONMENT\)](#) [RECYCLING \(/TERM/RECYCLING\)](#)

[THE VERMONT LEGISLATURE \(/TERM/VERMONT-LEGISLATURE-0\)](#)

[GOVERNMENT & POLITICS \(/TERM/GOVERNMENT-POLITICS\)](#) [VPR NEWS \(/TERM/VPR-NEWS-1\)](#)

f [Share \(http://facebook.com/sharer.php?](http://facebook.com/sharer.php?)

u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fy2dgek3d&t=Vt.%20Senate%20Committee%20Looks%20At%20Allegations%20That%20

VPR Comment Policy

VPR welcomes a healthy discussion of news and ideas. Please refrain from personal attacks, hate speech and profanity.



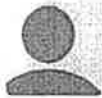
Please read our Comment Policy before commenting.

2 Comments VPR

Login ▾

Recommend Tweet Share

Sort by Newest ▾



Join the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS

Name



kent moore • a month ago

Recycling of most household single use packaging-plastic-glass-paper, has become a feel good project as there no longer is a meaningful market for any of it. It seems that there is more waste in collecting,transporting and managing from a carbon consumption standpoint. China does not want any longer.

1 ^ ▾ • Reply • Share ▸



anonymous commenter • a month ago

Very disappointed to hear this news. Should I still recycle glass in the blue bin? I follow the directions to remove the label & rinse out glass containers but is that effort all for nothing? Why should people recycle if it's getting dumped in a ditch? And charging the fee dishonestly? Sad.

^ ▾ • Reply • Share ▸

Subscribe Add Disqus to your siteAdd DisqusAdd Disqus' Privacy PolicyPrivacy PolicyPrivacy

RELATED CONTENT



near higher recycling costs vermont)
[Changes In Global Markets Mean Higher Recycling Costs In Vermont \(/post/changes-global-markets-mean-higher-recycling-costs-vermont/\)](/post/changes-global-markets-mean-higher-recycling-costs-vermont/)

AUG 2, 2018

[\(/post/changes-global-markets-](/post/changes-global-markets-)

\$19,446 left to go by tomorrow Help VTDigger stay strong.

DONATE

[EB-5 fraud](#)[Bourgoin trial — juror insight](#)[Deeper Dig: Bourgoin trial](#)[Vermont Legislature](#)[Legislative bill tracker](#)

- [NEW: Business Section](#)
- [Criminal Justice](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Energy & Environment](#)
- [Health Care](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [People & Places](#)
- [Obituaries](#)

enter search term

Don't miss our comprehensive coverage of the 2019 legislature.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Glass dumping violation points to poor glass recycling market

By Elizabeth Gribkoff

May 29 2019, 4:34 PM | no reader footnotes



Employees of Casella Waste Systems sort recyclables at the Chittenden Solid Waste District's material recovery facility in Williston. Photo by Elizabeth Gribkoff/VTDigger

The Chittenden Solid Waste District may have violated state law when it crushed and spread glass brought to its Williston facility for recycling. The state has cited the facility and another waste district is threatening legal action.

We have \$19,446 to raise in 2 days.

Support VTDigger



\$19,446 left to go by tomorrow Help VTDigger stay strong.

DONATE



accurately report the disposal to the state. The district contends that it was using the crushed glass as an embankment — a use allowed by the state.

Vermont has 16 solid waste districts that work to reduce waste and ensure adequate regional access to recycling, composting and trash disposal facilities. CSWD owns one of the state's two material recovery facilities, also referred to as a MRF, in Williston. The MRF sorts most of northern Vermont's single stream, or "blue bin," recyclables.

During a site visit on April 3, 2018, ANR staff observed "thousands of cubic yards of crushed glass" dumped at two sites on Redmond Road owned by CSWD, according to the notice of alleged violation.

enter search term

"I can tell you that they've stopped adding to it," she said of the disposal sites. She added that "all sites look the same" as when the state sent the alleged violation notice.

VTDigger is underwritten by:



The allegations resurfaced at a Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee meeting earlier this month. John Brabant, regulatory affairs director for the nonprofit Vermonters for a Clean Environment, testified that CSWD, unable to recycle glass received at the MRF, had dumped crushed glass at a closed landfill.

Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District executive director Paul Tomasi sent a video of that meeting to NEKWMD board members.

At a May 14 meeting, the board voted to have Tomasi see what sort of legal recourse, if any, the district could take against CSWD for the alleged glass dumping. Tomasi expressed concerns that actions like this could tarnish the reputation of recycling facilities, according to the meeting minutes.

The 49-town NEKWMD, which operates a source-separated recycling center in Lyndonville, sends glass to a Canadian company to be turned into fiberglass, said Tomasi in an interview Tuesday. But private waste haulers and four towns — Corinth, Kirby, Topsham and Westmore — within the district have sent glass to the Williston MRF, he said, and paid the Williston facility a tipping fee.

Tomasi said that for now, the NEK district's plan is to wait and see what the Attorney General's Office does. Rob McDougall, chief of the environmental protection division for the attorney general, said that the division is reviewing the case, but would not comment further.

"The more I look into this, the more I think, maybe we're jumping the gun a little bit and that the (Attorney General's) Office's ... inquiry should really be brought to a conclusion before anything else happens," said Tomasi.

Michele Morris, outreach and communications director for CSWD, did not deny that the district had put crushed glass at those sites but disagrees with the state's assertion that doing so was illegal.

Glass is heavy, made from a relatively inexpensive source material (sand), and has to be sorted by color, she said. So recycling glass "requires a lot of work and cleaning for a material that basically doesn't have much value in the markets," she said.

A 2018 survey of Northeast MRFs found that 54% of reported glass is sent to processors for further cleaning, 38.37% is used at landfills and .02% is sent directly to container manufacturers. Respondents cited challenges of recycling glass as being wear and tear on equipment, contamination, lack of markets and cost.

Morris said that CSWD had not been dumping the glass but rather was using it to line a road along the closed Williston landfill. She pointed VTDigger to a 2002 list from ANR of "acceptable uses" for processed glass aggregate, which is glass that has been cleaned and crushed to a certain size. One of the uses of processed glass aggregate is as an "embankment" to fill in a slope.

We have \$19,446 to raise in 2 days.

Support VTDigger



\$19,446 left to go by tomorrow Help VTDigger stay strong.

DONATE



Monro suggested the bottle bill could be expanded to cover more bottles and other types of glass jars.

"That's a better stream for glass," she said. "Let's get it where it has the best likelihood of having its value retained and being made back into new glass."

To print the document, click the "Original Document" link to open the original PDF. At this time it is not
enter search term

Don't miss a thing. Sign up here to get VTDigger's weekly email on the energy industry and the environment.

Subscribe

Filed under:

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Tags: Agency of Natural Resources, Chittenden Solid Waste District, Michele Morris, Northeast Kingdom Solid Waste District, Paul Tomasi, recycling, Vermont Attorney General's Office, Vermont legislature

[REPORT AN ERROR] [UPLOAD A DOCUMENT] [TIP DROP]



About Elizabeth

Elizabeth Gribkoff is VTDigger's energy and environment reporter. She graduated from UVM's Environmental Studies program in 2013, receiving departmental honors for her thesis on women's farming networks in Chile and Vermont. Since graduating, Elizabeth has worked in conservation and sustainable agriculture. Most recently, she was a newsroom and reporting intern with VTDigger.

We have \$19,446 to raise in 2 days.

Support VTDigger





Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation
Waste Management & Prevention Division
1 National Life Drive, Davis 1
Montpelier, VT 05620-33704

NOTICE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION ("NOAV")
10 V.S.A. § 8006(b)

Alleged Violator (Respondent):

Chittenden Solid Waste District
Sarah Reeves, General Manager
1021 Redmond Rd
Williston VT 05495

CERTIFIED MAIL#
7015 3010 0001 4961 0435

You are hereby put on notice that the Agency of Natural Resources believes that you are in violation of the Vermont Statutes, Regulations, and Permits noted below:

1. *Vermont Solid Waste Management Rules §6-302(d) - Disposal outside a certified facility*
2. *Vermont Solid Waste Management Rules §6-1208 (a) - Failure to accurately report on the destination of waste.*

Description of Alleged Violations:

On 4/3/18, Agency staff observed fill areas containing thousands of cubic yards of discarded crushed glass at two locations on Redmond Road owned by Chittenden Solid Waste District (adjacent to the closed landfill and the compost facility). District staff stated that the glass was non-marketable recycled glass from the MRF (materials recovery facility) owned by the District and located at 357 Avenue C in Williston. Review of Department records found that no approvals have been issued for the storage or disposal of glass at these locations. Review of quarterly reports submitted by the District found that the destination for the glass has been incorrectly reported as "local projects".

Compliance Directives:

1. Immediately cease the storage or disposal of glass outside of certified facilities and provide accurate quarterly reports.
2. Within 14 days of receipt of this notice, submit all records related to the material, including dates of delivery, volume, gradation analyses, and percent deleterious content analyses.
3. Within 120 days of receipt of this notice, either:
 - a. Remove all glass from the two locations to a certified recycling or disposal facility(ies) permitted to accept the material. Disposal at any location requires prior written approval of the Secretary in accordance with Condition #11 of the MRF certification (SWF ID#CH954); or
 - b. Obtain solid waste certification for the disposal area and comply with all conditions of the certification. If a certification is not issued, removal (per 3a) is required.
4. If the material is removed as described in 3a above, notify the Agency upon the start and the completion of the cleanup, and allow Agency staff to inspect the site.
5. If the material is removed as described in 3a above, within 14 days of delivery of the glass, submit tipping receipts from the receiving facility(ies) to the Agency.

In response to the alleged violation(s), the Agency may issue a Civil Complaint pursuant to 10 V.S.A. Section 8019 which would assess a penalty. The Agency may also issue an Administrative Order pursuant to 10 V.S.A. Section 8008 which would require full compliance with all applicable statutes, rules, and/or permits; assess penalties; and if necessary, require corrective/restorative action and any other measures deemed appropriate. Prompt correction of the alleged violation(s) may lessen the possibility or severity of any enforcement action taken by the Agency. We request a written response within 14 days of receipt of this NOAV, which sets forth the reasons for the existence of the alleged violation and your intentions with respect to prompt correction.

If you have any questions about this notice, call Barb Schwendtner, Solid Waste Compliance Chief, at 802-249-5904. This NOAV was served on the above-designated Respondent by certified mail.

Cathy Jamieson

Dated: April 12, 2018

Cathy Jamieson Solid Waste Program Manager
Waste Management & Prevention Division



RECEIVED

MAY 31 2019

May 29, 2019

**CITY MANAGERS OFFICE
NEWPORT, VERMONT**

Dear Valued Customer:

We have received notice from Chittenden Solid Waste District that the recycling tip fee at their recycling facility in Williston will be increasing \$10.00 per ton effective July 1, 2019. This increase is due to the continued decline in markets for recycling commodities, resulting in insufficient revenue to offset the cost to operate and manage the MRF Program.

Effective July 1, 2019 your tip fee for your roll off recycling loads will be increased **\$10.00 per ton.**

We sincerely thank you for your continued support and business. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call us at **800-CASELLA**.

Sincerely,

Pierre R. Lachaussie
Market Area Controller