

Brett Kramer

As an Inver Grove Heights resident owning a home immediately north of the landfill, I have strong opposition to the proposed expansion. While understanding the need for our regional refuse to have to go somewhere, increasing the allowable height an additional 85 feet is so far from being in conformity with the nearby land contour. The increase in allowable volume (and height) will exponentially increase the garbage that I already find on my property including plastic bags and wraps that get tangled in a wooded area on my property. Although the landfill operator may try its best to avoid, as garbage is piled higher above the nominal wind-blocking buffer of trees/fencing, a very substantial increase in trash and odor resulting from the expansion cannot be denied. Additionally, with the mound being so high above any natural buffer (trees), the noise of the machinery will also be increased. We already clearly hear the on-going "beeps" from the equipment reversing depending on the weather and where on the landfill they are working, and if they are working higher, the noise will carry even more. With the expansion, I am also concerned with the increased contamination risk of our ground water as all the homes in the area source our water from wells. My concern is both for contamination under the actual landfill area as well as from the surface level runoff. By increasing the height of the mound by an additional 85 feet at a slope of 3:1, the water runoff would be moving very fast in a significant rain/flood event that could potentially cause it to breach the retention mechanisms proposed/in place. Lastly, the proposed height increase would be a massive eyesore. I am not naïve in that I purchased a home in close proximity to a landfill and I know that they are being as best of neighbor possible while operating their business, but this proposed expansion seems extremely aggressive and I am very much against it.