

## Comments from the County Commissioners

The following is a partial email response provided by County Commission Chair Jerol Kivett in September 2023 regarding the GFL landfill and Sapphire RNG.

"[Landfill] host fees (budgeted now at about \$2.3 million per year) are an important revenue stream which, over the years, has paid debt service on county facilities, provided for the purchase of capital outlay items such as ambulances and vehicles, offset the costs of maintaining convenience/recycling sites, and lessened annual tax increases needed to fund programs and services. As important as the economic advantages of the current landfill contract are to Sampson County, they do not, however, negate our responsibilities for environmental stewardship. When the landfill was first sited, a primary concern was ensuring that the County met its needs for solid waste management in a manner compliant with all state and federal requirements, and that remains a priority today."

We believe that GFL places an emphasis on expanding technologies to manage potential environmental hazards. They have processes in place to monitor groundwater, to control, collect, and manage leachate, and to reduce harmful air emissions. Their recent application for a permit for a renewable natural gas facility to capture the methane gas the landfill produces demonstrates that emphasis. The permit will include conditions that ensure ambient level of pollutants beyond the facility's fence line comply with federal and state emission standards (including health standards). The new facility will, as with all landfill permits, be subject to record keeping, reporting requirements and inspections."



## Take Action

### Upcoming Opportunities

- **Air Permit Review** – The landfill's air permit is expiring in June 2024. As a part of the re-application process, the community will have the opportunity to provide public comment.
- **PFAS testing** – The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has been testing private wells around the landfill for forever chemicals. If you'd like to have your water tested contact Patrick Stovall – [patrick.stovall@deq.nc.gov](mailto:patrick.stovall@deq.nc.gov)
- **Odor Management Plan** – Landfills in North Carolina are required to have comprehensive plans to manage the impact of odor on surrounding communities. Sampson County does not currently have an odor management plan. Snow Hill advocates are currently exploring opportunities to hold the landfill accountable for this violation.



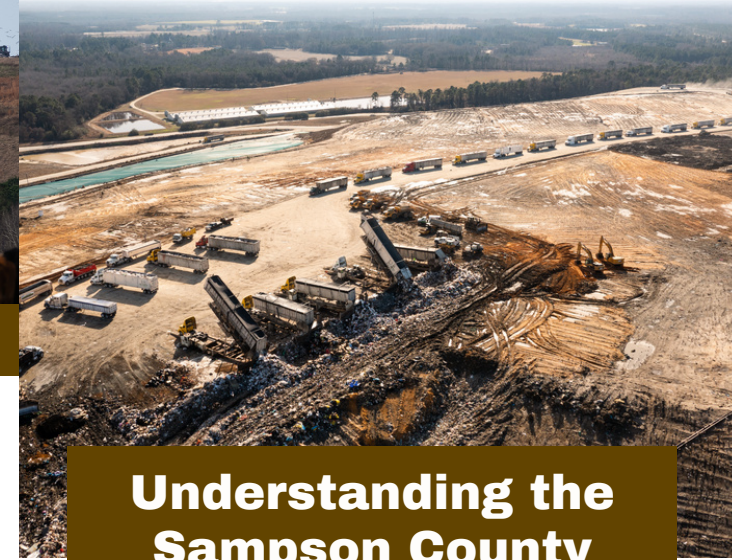
Scan for more information on PFAS waster testing

### Point of Contact for Future Organizing

- Concerned Citizens of Sampson County – [ceef3355@gmail.com](mailto:ceef3355@gmail.com)

### "Waste, Race, & Place" Article

*In Roseboro's Snow Hill neighborhood, a community has waged a 50-year fight against the state's largest landfill.*



## Understanding the Sampson County Landfill

*A guide to the history, harms, and addressable violations of the Sampson County Landfill in Roseboro, NC's Snow Hill community.*

The Sampson County landfill is a roughly 1,300-acre solid waste facility that is currently owned and operated by Canadian company, GFL Inc. The facility, located in the historically Black neighborhood of Snow Hill, has contributed to the economic decline of the community and is thought to cause a wide array of health harms to proximate residents.

**The facility is not expected to close until 2042.**

**#1**

Largest Landfill in North Carolina.

**10-20X**

More PFAS in tested sites downstream of the landfill.

**#1**

In the state for harmful vinyl chloride emissions in 2020.

**#2**

Sampson County is ranked 2nd in the state for methane emissions, primarily due to the landfill.

## What Goes In?

### Trucks

It's estimated that about 250 trucks enter the landfill everyday, contributing to noise pollution as well as light pollution when operating at night. These trucks also contribute to local air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and have been known to spill potentially harmful sludge, dead animals, or other waste on the road.

### Dead Animals

According to the county commissioners the facility accepts animal waste, including dead hogs from nearby operations, as long as they have passed state inspection. These animals –



that have been treated with antibiotics, hormones, and other chemicals that can cause ecological damages – and their excretions have the potential to contaminate soil and waterways.

### Potentially Harmful Chemicals

In addition to traditional municipal solid waste, the facility has received materials contaminated with substances that have been linked to various forms of cancer including: creosote (a preservative) covered wood, asbestos, sludge containing forever chemicals, and tri-fuel ash from burned coal, wood, and tires.

## What Comes Out?

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Like most solid waste facilities, the landfill releases climate change-causing carbon dioxide, nitrous oxides, sulfur oxides, and particulate matter. However, Sampson County's landfill is one of the biggest emitting landfills in the country at about 33,000 tons of methane released per year according to 2021 EPA figures.

### Forever Chemicals & Emerging Compounds

In surface and drinking water testing conducted by the state and researchers at UNC, PFAS and other forever chemicals have been found at elevated concentrations. Long-term exposure to forever chemicals has been linked to issues with the immune system, kidney disease, and reproductive abnormalities. GFL has also found concentrations of 1,4-dioxane – an emerging contaminant that has been linked to liver cancer – in concentrations greater than state water quality standards at tested landfill sites.

### Potentially Hazardous Air Pollutants

The EPA considers this landfill a “major source” of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAP) at about 32 tons of HAPs emitted per year according to 2019 figures.

### Odors & Nuisance Animals

Residents have noted the odor around the landfill is debilitating, impacting breathing and one's ability to go outdoors. The landfill has also attracted pests including buzzards, rats, bears, and dogs which have damaged property and threatened people's safety.



## Claims & Community Comments

**Promise:** When the landfill was first constructed, the county established a landfill advisory committee to allow the community to interface with the facility.

**Actuality:** “People stopped going to committee meetings because we didn't really see any results from it. They did pave the church parking lot. And there is a family scholarship; I think they donate about \$5,000 a year to the scholarship. But other than that, there was no outcome from it.”

–Anonymous, Snow Hill Resident.

**Promise:** The original landfill owner, BFI, was to establish a free water service line for every resident adjacent to the landfill.

**Actuality:** “We were told back then that there was going to be a decrease in the taxes and the water was going to be free, but that never happened.”

–Paul Fisher, Snow Hill Resident.

**“There is not a house in this community that has not had a person who has suffered from some type of cancer or kidney failure.”**

– Whitney Parker, Snow Hill Resident

## Landfill Timeline

After complaints from various neighborhoods regarding odor and pollution from local satellite landfills, county decides to build centralized facility in Snow Hill.

1974

County purchases an additional 152-acres from pork industry to expand the landfill.

1992

Department of Transportation and the county make plans to turn Highway 24, originally a two-lane that ran through the community of Snow Hill, into a four-lane road with a bypass around the Snow Hill community. Residents claim that the expansion would not only allow the landfill to fit more trucks on the road but would allow travelers to circumvent the Snow Hill community, creating an out-of-sight-out-of-mind mentality.

1973

Unlined municipal satellite site is established in Snow Hill.

1978

The unlined municipal site, no longer in compliance with regulations, is replaced by a 350-acre regional landfill that will take non-hazardous waste from a 60-mile radius around North Carolina. The landfill, owned by BFI, was cited near the original facility despite massive protest from the community.

2006-2019