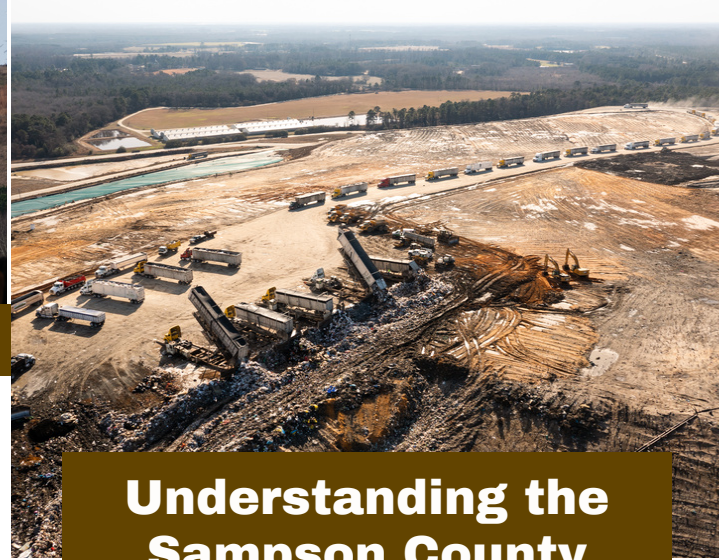


Comments from the County Commissioners

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



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. Scan for more information on PFAS waster testing
- **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

Organizations & Points of Contact

- The Southern Environmental Law Center and Environmental Justice Community Action Network – info@ejcan.org
- Concerned Citizens of Sampson County – 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.

“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

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.

"If you have land you want to try to rent out for people to use, it won't pass the soil test. We've lost a lot of income because of that toxic place."

– Whitney Parker, Snow Hill Resident

Landfill Timeline

