

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND  
Legislative Session 2025, Legislative Day No. 16

Resolution No. 49-25

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Mr. David Marks, Councilman

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By the County Council, October 6, 2025

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A RESOLUTION of the Baltimore County Council urging the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to deny the wastewater permit requested by Days Cove Reclamation Company, which operates a rubble landfill on State-owned property at 6425 Days Cove Road, to double its daily wastewater discharge and to initiate a plan to close the site.

WHEREAS, the Days Cove Rubble Landfill (the Landfill) – an 83-acre landfill located within the Gunpowder Falls State Park in White Marsh and situated adjacent to the Eastern Sanitary Landfill – has recently applied for a permit to discharge up to 25,000 gallons of treated leachate each day into the Bird River, a tributary of the Gunpowder River; and

WHEREAS, leachate – also known as “trash juice” – is the term for the wastewater created by stormwater running through a landfill and collecting chemicals, toxins, and other liquids, which must be treated before being discharged into surface water; and

WHEREAS, while MDE issued a permit in 2013 allowing the Landfill to discharge up to 12,000 gallons of treated leachate daily, the Landfill had, until 2023, hauled the wastewater offsite – usually to the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant – for disposal; and

WHEREAS, beginning in April 2023, the Landfill began collecting and treating its leachate at an on-site plant, sending it through ponds and a flooded mining pit, before finally discharging it to the Bird River; and

WHEREAS, the MDE Fact Sheet on the Landfill's permit states that "from commencement of discharge in April 2023 through February 2025, the [Landfill] has exceeded its permit limits [of 12,000 daily gallons] a total of 20 times" with "14 of the 20 exceedances occurring in the first five months of discharge, indicating that there was a learning curve to optimize treatment following the startup of discharge"; and

WHEREAS, the Fact Sheet goes on to state that "the Water and Science Administration Compliance Program took enforcement action for a total of 16 permit exceedances occurring throughout 2023 which resulted in a penalty of \$15,000"; and

WHEREAS, at a hearing on the permit application that occurred on September 16th at the Perry Hall Library, nearly 200 members of the public and elected officials voiced their concern and opposition to the permit application; and

WHEREAS, with the Back and Gunpowder Rivers becoming more polluted every year, now is not the time to allow the Landfill to double the amount of wastewater they can dump in our waters; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Baltimore County Council urges MDE to deny the wastewater permit for Days Cove Reclamation Company and the Days Cove Rubble Landfill and to initiate a plan to close the site; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor of Maryland; the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Environment; the Baltimore County delegation to the Maryland General Assembly; and the Baltimore County Executive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect from the date of its passage by the County Council.