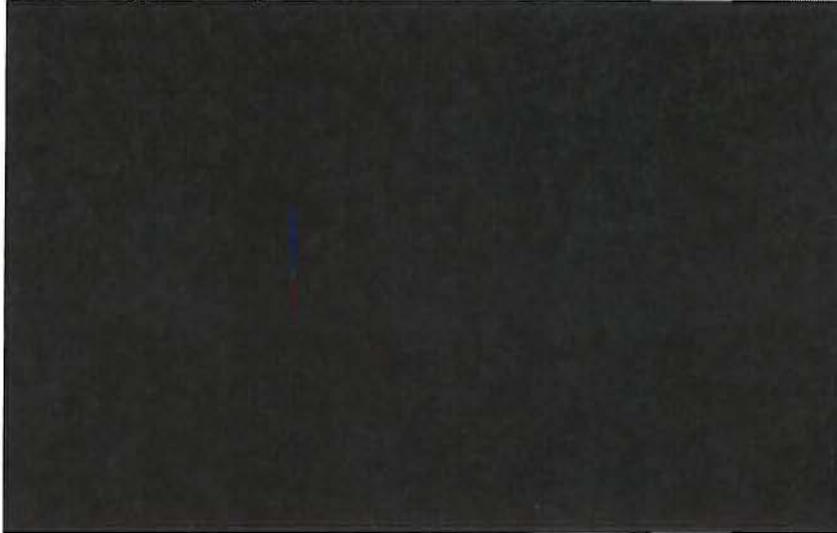


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Hempstead plans to sue Waller Co. over proposed landfill

Wednesday, February 13, 2013



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HOUSTON (KTRK) -- Hundreds of people are actively protesting the idea of creating a landfill in Waller County near Highway 6 and 290.

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On Wednesday, a majority of Waller County commissioners decided to move forward with that proposed landfill project. Now the mayor of Hempstead says this city's moving forward with a lawsuit.

"I'm heartsick over it," Waller County judge and Hempstead resident June Jackson said.

Across Hempstead, neighbors are fired up and speaking out. Many are upset a majority of Waller County commissioners voted Wednesday to move forward with an out-of-state company's proposal to build a landfill along State Highway 6 on the northwest side of the county.

"That's just their opinion, that's not mine. I do not want it here, and I guarantee you 90 percent of the people don't want it here," landfill opponent Frank Yepp said.

People rallied by the hundreds during the commissioners public meeting in Hempstead Tuesday night, hoping it could help halt plans for the pintail landfill. The company pushing the landfill claims it will be environmentally friendly and bring good paying jobs to the community.

And despite strong opposition, that proposed project agreement passed in commissioners court with a 3-2 vote.

"I think the people feel that they did not listen nor feel with their heart," Hempstead Mayor Michael Wolfe Sr. said.

Wolfe is among those who believes some county leaders just made the wrong decision. The decision also included amending an existing ordinance to prohibit other solid waste companies from coming into any other parts of Waller County.

"As a result of the county making that decision, the city is now going to move forward in filing a lawsuit against this particular ordinance that they feel that they have the right to do," Wolfe said.

The county judge has not yet responded to our request for comment. Wolfe says he and other city leaders will begin working with their attorneys Thursday.

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June 20, 2013

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Hundreds Protest Proposed Hempstead Landfill



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By: KBTX Staff Email (<mailto:news@kbtx.com>)

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Close to 1,000 people gathered in downtown Hempstead Tuesday night in protest of a new landfill.

If the Texas Commission on [Environmental](#) [Quality](#) approves the new landfill it would be located at the southeast corner of Highway 290 and Highway 6.

Many residents are concerned about their [property values](#) [and](#) the amount of traffic that the landfill could bring to the area.

Some Prairie View A&M [University](#) [students](#) are opposed to the landfill, citing concerns like air quality and water contamination. They were among those protesting. The university's president has said he supports the student body as it fights against the placement of the landfill.

The protest ended in front of the Waller County Courthouse where a public hearing was held on the issue.

Waller County Precinct 4 Commissioner Glenn Beckendorff tells News 3 that thirty-five citizens spoke at the hearing, which lasted until nearly 9pm. He says a decision on the landfill is likely to be made on Wednesday.

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Michael Phillips • 4 months ago

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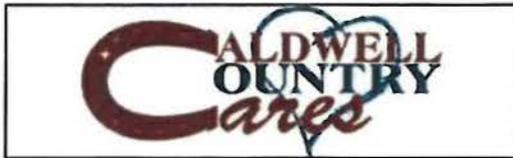


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STANDS FOR HOUSTON

Hempstead residents in uproar over proposed landfill



by Brad Woodard / KHOU 11 News

khou.com

Posted on March 26, 2013 at 6:17 PM

HEMPSTEAD -- There's a debate brewing in the city of Hempstead over trash. The city is suing Waller County from creating a landfill that would be just two miles from the Waller County Courthouse.

Just a stone's throw from Highway 6 in Hempstead, the landscape remains pretty much as nature intended. In the middle of it all is Ivy Kolaja's dream home.

She and her husband moved there after living in Houston for 26 years. They had just started construction on their house when they learned of a new neighbor potentially moving in across the road: a landfill.

"I think it's devastating," said Kolaja. "It's devastating for the county and to the people who live in this area."

Some argue it's because of the people who live in the area that the site was selected in the first place.

"If you look at the demographics of the region, it's largely minority," said Hempstead resident Bill Huntsinger. "If you look at their economic status in life, they're economically disadvantaged."

And less capable, he said, of fighting back.

Critics said you couldn't pick a worse site for a landfill if you tried. It sits atop an aquifer, and they're concerned leaks could contaminate the water supply.

The city has gone so far as to file a lawsuit against Waller County in an attempt to stop the landfill from going in. A temporary restraining order has been granted.

Opponents of the landfill say the environment isn't the only thing at stake here.

"It's a gateway to the City of Hempstead," said Huntsinger. "The economic future of this town just vanishes."