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The Proposed Plan and supporting documentation provide a thorough analysis of the levels of contaminants at the Centredale site and the health and environmental risks associated with a variety of scenarios. What is lacking from this analysis is the type of information that can be obtained from a health impact assessment (HIA). An HIA for Centredale could include an evaluation of the health benefits associated with different remediation options. A quantitative assessment of benefits could influence opinions about reasonable cost and promote local acceptance of the plan.

The intended uses for proposed Confined Disposal Facilities and wetland areas that receive a thin layer cap are not a point of emphasis in the proposed plan. The health benefits of the intended uses could be evaluated and quantified via the HIA process. Such an HIA could be used in several ways. For example, the HIA could inform a town's decision to accept a Confined Disposal Facility if a quantitative analysis of the health benefits associated with developing the site for active recreation demonstrated a significant benefit to area residents. With respect to areas proposed to be covered with a thin layer cap, a quantitative assessment may demonstrate whether more costly treatments that support a greater range of uses could be cost-effective.

There is overwhelming evidence that physical activity promotes better physical and mental health. The benefits of creating attractive recreational areas that promote physical activity and exercise can be quantified using data on the prevalence of disease risk factors and the incidence of disease in the Centredale area. HIAs provide a mechanism to use these types of data to develop the Centredale site to its full potential.

Thank you for considering these comments and for all your hard work on this issue.

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