

Opponent seek injunction over Tolson landfill in Odenton

Hearing on special exception to be held Wednesday

E.B. Furgurson III, pfurgurson@capgaznews.com

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The Piney Orchard Community Association, the Patuxent Riverkeeper and several residents have filed for an injunction to stop potential work at the proposed Tolson Landfill near their west county neighborhood.

The temporary injunction was filed prior to a hearing on the case Wednesday. A county hearing officer is expected to listen to arguments on whether a 22-year-old special exception should still be operative for the landfill. A more permanent injunction was sought March 12.

"After 22 years a lot has changed in our area," said Steve Randol, the president of the Piney Orchard association. "Extending the exception ignores the reality of everything that has been built surrounding that property. There has to be a better way to use that land."



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• Crofton landfill opponents: 'This is winnable'

Tolson rubble landfill is planned for 72 acres of an 184-acre gravel mine in Odenton at the end of Capitol Raceway Road.

The Maryland Department of the Environment issued the landfill its long-sought permit Nov. 24, 2014, roughly five weeks before the effective date of a new Anne Arundel County law outlawing rubble landfills.

The County Council had voted unanimously last July to ban such facilities.

The landfill would be the largest of five rubble landfills in the state and would accept construction debris ranging from tree stumps and drywall to wiring and asbestos. Up to 400,000 tons of waste could be dumped annually.

In early December Tolson LLC, the company that would operate the landfill, applied for a variance for the special exception allowing the landfill to be extended yet again. The special exception expired Dec. 12.

As of Jan 1 no rubble landfills are allowed in Anne Arundel. But because the state had issued a permit, Tolson attorney Anthony Gorski said they felt the special exception was not needed and claimed to have begun work on converting the site to accept rubble.

Opponents hope the special exception will not be renewed and the new county law will halt any further activity.

In late December they also filed an appeal of the permit the state Department of the Environment in Circuit Court. No date has been set for a hearing in that matter.

Representatives for Tolson could not be reached Sunday for comment on the injunction.