

Locals Overwhelmingly Oppose Landfill in Russia's North — Poll

August 27, 2019



Vkontakte / pnparh

An overwhelming majority of residents in northern Russia oppose the construction of a controversial waste dump that has catalyzed protests in the region for over a year, according to an independent survey.

Plans to ship over 2 million tons of garbage a year from Moscow to the abandoned Arkhangelsk region settlement of Shiyes have drawn fierce opposition among locals. Moscow City Hall has halted construction of the \$160 million facility pending public hearings and needed approvals.

Embed:

A total of 95% of respondents in Arkhangelsk region oppose the landfill's construction, according to the independent Levada Center polling agency's results <u>published</u> Monday.

Almost half of the landfill's opponents said they were willing to attend authorized demonstrations against its construction, and one-quarter said they would take the streets even if the authorities didn't issue a permit.

When asked to list the reasons for their opposition to the landfill, 70% of opponents named concerns with the environment and 57% cited the authorities' lack of coordination with residents and ecologists. Fifty-five percent said the waste dump would affect their health and 39% said that waste storage is an inefficient method of trash disposal regardless of location.

Related article: Protests in Shiyes: How a Garbage Dump Galvanized Russia's Civil Society

Only 3% of the respondents supported the controversial construction in Shiyes. They named employment opportunities (70%), increased budget revenue (53%) and confidence in the technology's safety (47%) as their biggest reasons for supporting the project.

Levada conducted the survey among 1,008 Arkhangelsk region residents at an unknown date.

Original url:

https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/08/27/locals-overwhelmingly-oppose-land fill-in-russias-north-poll-a67032