

Locals Overwhelmingly Oppose Landfill in Russia's North – Poll

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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.

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A total of 95% of respondents in Arkhangelsk region oppose the landfill's construction, according to the independent Levada Center polling agency's results [published](#) 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.

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