

From: [Sue Powell](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: LU-24-027
Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 4:29:01 PM

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I strongly oppose the approval of LU-24-027 which will expand the Coffin Butte Landfill.

In 2022, an EPA inspection found very high ("explosive") levels of methane at Coffin Butte Landfill. Landfills are responsible for emitting 30+ hazardous air pollutants including particulate matter, heavy metals and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs).

My concern is not only air pollution, but past, current, and future health problems due to the contamination by leachate, odors, bacteria and viruses, and more.

Each year 30-35 million gallons of leachate runoff from the landfill are trucked to Corvallis and Salem wastewater treatment plants where "treatment" primarily consists of dilution, and the "treated" water is then dumped directly into the Willamette River. In Corvallis, the "treatment" outfall is downstream of the drinking water intake, although should be of **grave concern to any municipality north of the treatment water outfall** until the Willamette flows to the Columbia River and is further diluted.

My background with the state government included water quality monitoring of an estuary using automated data collection every 30 minutes, 24 hours/day, and 365 days/year. We also worked with the Oregon DEQ to monitor bacterial contamination of the water.

Is Republic Services monitoring leachate and air pollution? Unbiased and professionally - using EPA methods? How frequently? Do they even have the capability? Do they understand baseline, calibration, collection methods, data QA/QC?

Of greater concern are the PFAS, or Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. The level of **one type of PFAS is exponentially higher at Coffin Butte than any other landfill in Oregon (data available)**. These 15,000+ synthetic chemicals are commonly used, and they breakdown very slowly. How harmful they are to humans is also not well studied, but it is clear that some cancers, reproductive, and development effects occur. And we don't know how long they last or how to get rid of them. Drinking water is definitely a major concern and none of the wastewater treatment sites monitor PFAS. **Leachate always ends up in some waterway**, as it is gravity fed to the lowest elevation possible.

Neither Corvallis nor Salem water treatment facilities monitor for PFAS. Why not?

The regulators of the landfill are: Oregon DEQ, EPA, Oregon OSHA. **There is no oversight by Benton County using their own land use requirements.**

Fines incurred by Republic Services for environmental-related offenses: \$160 million.

Waste Management Inc: \$29 million

Finally, I shudder to think that it is very possible that we will have a **Super Fund site in the near future. Who then is responsible, and how can you put a value on human health? When Republic Services/Waste Management declares bankruptcy, will we wish that we stopped this when we could.**

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October 7, 2025**