

LU-24-027 IN-PERSON TESTIMONY SUBMITTAL COVER SHEET

Received From: Kate Harris

Date: 23 Oct 25

Email: k.harris.01@gmail.com

Phone:

Address: 37268 Moss Look Dr

City, State, Zip: Corvallis, OR 97330

FOR BOC OFFICE STAFF USE ONLY

BOC ID: BOC2

IDENTIFIER: T06He

This is a written copy of intended verbal testimony in front of the Board of Commissioners on 22 or 23 October 2025, by Kate Harris. Actual verbal testimony may differ from this document.

Hello Chair Wyse, Commissioners Sheperd & Malone, name is Kate Harris, I live at 37268 Moss Rock Dr, Corvallis.

I will first read a letter by the Rt Rev Katharine Jefferts Schori, who still has family and property ties to Benton County.

(Excerpts from letter submitted to commissioners on 8 October 2025, attached at end)

[As you heard last night, once waste is placed on the south side of Coffin Butte Road, it will be statutorily very simple for Republic to close that Emergency Egress route without any public involvement. Please see my letter for additional details.]

History of this Site

A letter was written to the Benton County Planning Commission on November 5, 1973, by the North Benton Citizens Advisory Committee. Just over a year before my husband was born and came home from the old Good Sam hospital to his house in Adair Village. That letter, emphasized that this landfill was never sited in an appropriate location and urged then commissioners to not allow this landfill to expand. Another decision in 1983 to allow landfill activities to occur on the tax lots south of Coffin Butte Road, again, specifically stated that waste would never be deposited south of Coffin Butte Road. Time and time again, citizens have had to fight back against the elected & appointed officials in our own county, who are supposed to be taking care of our health and safety, in order to protect our investments and the health of our families.

Health & Safety - Infertility & Fishing

I will now address some health and safety concerns with ground water and leachate. As part of my Air Force career, I lived near lake on the south side of Oklahoma City, which was our drinking water source. There have since been whistleblower accounts of contaminants leaking underground, and flowing towards the lake. I was one of four women I knew who lived near this lake who experienced multiple miscarriages while living there. All four of us then moved to the Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska, and all went on to have multiple successful pregnancies. I probably won't ever know if the lake was the culprit. But I do know that toxic leachate is and has been dumped into the Willamette River just upstream of the Adair drinking water. Has the Oregon Health Authority or Benton County Health Department been part of this discussion? Has anyone researched the cancer clusters in Adair Village or Soap Creek Valley? I've heard reports of a medical provider in town, noting multiple women who live in Adair Village having thyroid issues. Can you tell me that the proper health authorities have been part of this process to ensure we are not already being poisoned and that an expansion won't add additional burden to the health and safety of your constituents?

Last night we heard from Pat Hare, assuring us that Adair Village's drinking water meets all standards. I do truly believe that Adair Village's drinking water meets all current regulatory standards. Unfortunately, those standards do not include specialized testing for PFAS and other landfill toxins. 2024 testing did not require testing for lead, synthetic organic compounds, arsenic, or asbestos, so we don't have a current record of impacts from the increasing amount of leachate entering the Willamette. So unfortunately, I think this is a case of "following the rules" does not necessarily equate to safety, due to outdated regulations.

For years I've been asking why Republic hasn't offered Adair Village more extensive testing, which they very well could afford. If they really thought it was safe, I would expect them to offer the tests to prove the drinking water was indeed free of concerning contaminants. The data seems to have a vacuum in this department.

[Although a condition of approval is that only one working face will be open at a time, the reality is by increasing the footprint of waste deposited on Republic's property, will by definition increase the amount of leachate that

drains from the piles of waste, and will increase the amount of methane dispersed into the atmosphere.]

Who has tested the water in the fishing pond on EE Wilson? This pond is specifically stocked with fish every year, for the purpose of recreational fishing. Within the last year, I watched a family with eight or 10 large fish on a line walking back to their car. I know no other purpose of carrying a large number of dead fish into your car other than to take them home to eat. What about the health and safety of this family? There is a creek that drains directly from the settling ponds on the north side of Coffin Butte Road under Highway 99 and directly into that pond. Who has confirmed that allowing fishing to happen at that pond is safe & not indeed poisoning the families who consume the fish from that pond?

These speculations are critical to consider, because if you approve this expansion now, there will be no recourse for the increasing impact on the community, if the Benton County Health Department or OHA do find negative health outcomes for the families impacted by the air and water contamination due to this landfill.

Consent

There has been a lot of discussion about teaching consent to children these days. Even down to something as seemingly small as giving consent to get a hug. In these discussions, children are taught that no means no. No can mean, no I don't want to hug. No can mean, no I don't want to share my drink with you. No means the same in this context as it does in elementary classrooms. No this landfill is not in a good location for expansion. No, this area was never a good location for landfill. The citizens of Benton County have known for well over 50 years, that this is not a safe or logical place to deposit waste. How many times do we have to keep discussing this topic before Benton County leaders will learn what consent means, and that no means no?

Fire Rebuttal

I will now address some arguments made by Republic, Republic's fire expert Jim Walsh & statements in the staff report.

The meeting between Republic and Adair Rural Fire in March was explicitly about current emergency operations, and Republic staff started the meeting by stating that it was specifically not for discussing the expansion. Which would explain why there was no discussion about potential burdens of an expansion. The firefighters very much want to keep a very good working relationship with Broc and the other operators, since they are all risking their lives during a fire. They must be able to trust and rely on each other during those emergencies. The discussion about burdens on the department are better suited to administrative not operational discussions. Had Staff or county consultants ever reached out to Adair Rural Fire, either in the previous set of hearings, or in preparation for this hearing, they could have discussed these situations, and received a better understanding of actual operations and burdens on the department.

--

Within this application process, there has been ongoing discussion about property values, and how that will ultimately impact the amount of property taxes paid, thereby the amount of property taxes that go directly to the Adair Rural Fire District budget. County Staff state in their report, "The expansion will have no impact on the Adair Fire Protection District's tax base." Last night Petra told you that you cannot consider property tax implications on adjacent parcels, so stick with me here.

Have you looked at the specific property taxes being paid by Republic? The two main tax lots north of Coffin Butte Road where the waste is currently being deposited, Lots 801 & 1106, pay \$221 and \$211 per acre respectively. The lot north of the road with the settling ponds pays \$233 per acre and the lot with the screening trees pays \$294 per acre. Did you know that the tax lot where the proposed expansion will go is currently paying \$826 per acre? Can you tell us how the Benton County Assessor assesses the value of each of those

lots? Once trash is placed on a lot, it appears that the current assessed value is approximately \$216 per acre. That tells me that in perpetuity tax lot 1107 will now only pay a quarter of what it has been paying, which WILL directly impact the amount of money going to Benton County public services, including the Adair Rural Fire Protection District.

The other argument pertaining to property values, is that because the landfill has been here for 70 years according to the staff report, those properties that are currently adjacent to the landfill have had that designation for a long time, and staff purports that, "an expansion with not change that situation." The landfill, where waste has been deposited, is north of Coffin Butte Road. There are several tax lots south of the proposed expansion that could be developed for multiple house sites, including that owned by the Kipper family who has spoken, and these lots are now considerably further away from waste deposits than if waste were placed south of Coffin Butte Road. I understand that Petra stated you can't consider potential future uses of adjacent land, but your constituents have made large family investments based on previously written decisions by prior County leadership about promises of future uses of the landfill tax lots south of Coffin Butte Road. So, if you can't consider future uses of other people's land, please at least stick with the prior decisions of county leadership, like the decision in 1983 that clearly defined that waste could NEVER be placed on the lots south of Coffin Butte Road.

If the County is going to say that the status quo has been that there's been a landfill in the neighborhood for 70 years, then we need to keep it that way, and keep the trash being deposited WHERE it has been, north of Coffin Butte Road and not now or ever allow it to come south of Coffin Butte Road. It is well documented nationwide, that housing development opportunities (one of the county's priorities) and prices go down the closer they are to large landfills. The county will indeed lose out on the opportunity for additional housing and property tax revenue on the lots south of Coffin Butte Road, if waste is indeed deposited closer to those lots.

The staff report also discusses the current number of fire department volunteers addressed by the Fire District, and that because the department did not declare a minimum number of volunteers required, staff did not consider this point. Unfortunately, the point made by the department was missed - the point is that as the toxic air, unknown safety of water, fire risk, and investment risk to buying a home within the Adair Fire District all increase, it is likely that the number of people with the capacity to volunteer for the fire department will decrease, and could indeed lead to an ineffective or closed department. This has dire consequences on the homeowner and fire insurance rates for all residences within the fire district. If the ISO rating were to drop from a 3 to a 10, all renters and property owners within the district would see steep insurance increases, which by definition would be an undue burden.

Other arguments made by Jim Walsh is that the FEMA document referenced by Adair Rural Fire Dept doesn't apply to this situation. He states about the document, "it talked about risk of fire coming from debris piles associated with their cleanup operations" and that "sometimes that's called a landfill, that's not a modern municipal solid waste subtitle D landfill like we have at Coffin Butte."

The document that has been referred to is the FEMA document, because the National Fire Data Center is a sub organization to the United States Fire Administration, which falls under the department of FEMA. If you would please look at the FEMA document attached to the Adair Fire district letter, you will see that it's specifically addressing municipal solid waste landfills like what we do have here in Benton County. The document states, "Landfill fires are particularly challenging to the fire service...and can strain a jurisdiction, particularly one dependent on volunteer staffing."

In the rebuttal in front of the Planning Commission, Jim Walsh speaks also about methane being a fire concern stating there is, "no history of that at modern municipal solid waste landfills, so we don't see the connection." That is entirely and utterly false. I will again point you back to the FEMA document in which it states, "Methane is highly flammable and plays a large role in the ignition of landfill fires."

So, are you inclined to believe me a non-firefighter, Jim Walsh, the fire expert paid by Republic or this document produced by US Fire Administration? I will leave that in your hands.

[During this September's DSAC meeting, Paul Koster discussed communications with Adair Rural Fire Dept, he stated that Adair did not supply any more information about how they could identify after-hour fires. During the March fire meeting, Republic confirmed that they did not want to spend tens of thousands of dollars on a camera. Chief Harris called ODF, and confirmed that camera on a tower, like those used by the Forest Service, do indeed cost over \$100,000. Since that option had already been taken off the table by Republic, he had no need to call them back to give them that information. I do believe somebody who works for Republic services probably has the ability to do their own research, and contact other authorities, who may have solutions for them. Other options would include hiring somebody to work the night shift, to drive around and ensure no smoke is coming from either the landfill or the PRC. We haven't even broached the subject of PRC fires during this application. This summer, there were two critical PRC fires, including one a week after Chief Harris recommended creating a bulldozer line between the PRC & EE Wilson. Had that caught EE Wilson, the fire department would have prioritized the structures and residences along Camp Adair Road, likely leaving few to no resources available for the landfill.

Paul made other not-fully-true statements during this DSAC meeting. Regarding the May 18th, 2024 tipper fire, he stated that Republic was "there within 10 minutes and knocked it out." When indeed Adair Fire was first on scene and was required to utilize fire truck water to extinguish the fire. He next point was about the open flares, "We got rid of those. They're now enclosed flares, so there's no chance of fire." When our community members have live pictures of the enclosed flares misfiring and flames coming up out of the top.

Paul Koster when on to state that he does not know how to determine when we have Red Flag Days. I believe Virginia Scott spoke to that. If the staff who are supposed to be managing this highly volatile industrial operation, don't know how to use Google, we may have some other challenges on our hands.]

Spin Doctors

I ask you to reference my testimony to the Planning Commission, which I resubmitted tonight, in which I discuss the Spin Doctor routine that Republic Services Public Relations team has placed on this whole process.

I have included written discussion of false claims from Republic employees during the September DSAC meeting, but I won't read those into the record tonight.

We have pointed out time and time again omissions, untruths, and flat out lies throughout their application and other materials. Please review that testimony, with a quick video reference as submitted tonight to your printed testimony table, and I urge you to consider whether you should approve this application when there is any doubt in your mind of the truthfulness of multiple parts of their application, supporting documents, and fake grass roots campaigns that they have used the last 60 days to propagate through our community. I'm sorry to say that we only get two minutes per person (unless ceded) to speak tonight so we can stay on our timeline, after Republic was just granted 60 day extension, not to fix methane problems, not to implement Red Flag watch duty, not to actually clean up the sides of the highways, but to try to buy off other local politicians to influence this process.

Last night during their presentation, Republic is quoted to say, "If we get the approval, we know we'll have to clean up the arterial roads as well." Can I PLEASE ask why they did not undertake this task during these past 60 days, let alone four years? We have had amazing weather recently, which would have made trash pickup simple. We are expecting two full inches of rain in the next three days. I shudder to think how far and wide the roadside trash will travel in flooded roadside ditches.

Summary

If Republic's experts were actually able to prove that this expansion doesn't place undue burden on public services or change the character of the area, they wouldn't have to spend all this extra energy and money trying to buy votes, including recruiting elected & public officials from other jurisdictions to come and weigh in on your county's process.

Nobody is paying us to come up with our research, or sacrificing thousands of hours & loss of paid work time. Even without well funded offices or deep coffers, we have been able to prove so many adverse effects. It's not even funny.

Republic has continued to blame the people who bought land, adjacent or nearby to the landfill decades ago. Residents purchased land under the promises of past County leadership, saying this landfill would close a number of times, and that it would most definitely NEVER have trash placed south of Coffin Butte Road. Yet Republic continues to point at these trusting citizens, saying that we are getting what we deserve.

Commissioners, You chose to run for this position. So to follow that line of reasoning, you're getting what you deserve and now you're holding the responsibility of this decision in your hands. You were elected by a large number of people in this county, who put their trust and faith in you, that you would take care of their health and well-being, and now is your chance to make good on that promise. You were not elected by Republic Services [I hope]. But instead by the citizens of Benton County, who are still putting their faith and trust in you to see this landfill for what it is. A health, safety, and environmental liability, that never has and never will be sited in an appropriate geological location. Please don't fail us now.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your tireless efforts considering this matter.

Respectfully, Kate Harris

8 October 2025

Dear Commissioners Malone, Wyse, & Shepherd,

My name is Kate Harris, I live at 37268 Moss Rock Dr and I'm the mother of three young children who have lived in Adair Village and now live in Soap Creek Valley. All three have them have lived under the shadow of the landfill since infancy.

I am writing to you today to implore that you deny LU-24-027, the application to expand Coffin Butte Landfill, based on BCC 53.215, with arguments below showing that this application does indeed *seriously interfere with safe use of adjacent properties and places undue burden on public facilities*.

I have a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Portland, where I studied transportation engineering, drinking water & waste water treatment, and the Coffin Butte Landfill specifically during my solid waste management studies. I have a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma, during which I studied community leader ethics among other topics.

I was an evaluator pilot in the US Air Force, where I was responsible for the safety of 40-person crews, which along with requiring specific flying expertise, included many emergency training situations, gas chamber training, and real-life tornado safety while living in Oklahoma. My paid profession for over 10 years was literally to keep all aspects of potential scenarios in mind while preventing my airplane from crashing, ensuring the safety of those on board & on the ground below us. Whether in the air or on the ground, I was specifically charged with the safety of the subordinates under my leadership.

You have been voted into your positions by the citizens of Benton County, with the charge and responsibility of focusing on and ensuring the health and safety of those same current residents and a follow-on responsibility to all future generations who will live in Benton County.

In 2021, the Benton County Planning Commission rejected the expansion application for Coffin Butte Landfill, partially due to Republic's request to place garbage over Coffin Butte Road, a primary emergency egress route that provides for the safety of the residents of Soap Creek Valley, Tampico, and surrounding neighborhoods.

LU-24-027 narrowly eliminates the request to close Coffin Butte Road, but falls short of guaranteeing that this will never happen.

It is at this point that I need to highlight the very real likelihood that Republic will seek to close Coffin Butte Road if this expansion is approved. Documents are still in play that do not fully remove the potential for future landfill expansion covering Coffin Butte Road, indicating Republic's intention to move forward with their original plan, only in stages this time instead of all at once.

Based on ORS 368.326-366, once landfilling is approved for both sides of Coffin Butte Road, Republic, as the sole owner of both of those properties, may petition the Public Works department to vacate Coffin Butte Road, with no opportunity for public input.

Your only way to guarantee that this never happens, is to deny the application in front of you now. We can all hope that we could believe that Republic would never close this road, but statutorily, it will be a very easy process if you approve this expansion now.

The only way that the current sitting commissioners can guarantee that Coffin Butte Road stays available for emergency egress in perpetuity, is to deny this application now.

In previous county CWPPs (Community Wildfire Protection Plans), the Oak Creek community has been afforded much time and attention, including county support for building a new egress road through Oregon State University property. In emails obtained through FOIA, during the last draft of the CWPP, then-county employee Inga Williams specifically omitted the Coffin Butte Landfill from inclusion in the wildfire protection plan because she didn't have enough expertise to include it in the plan. Why has the northern section of Benton County not been afforded this same level of time and consideration?

A wildfire erupted the last weekend of this September, near Granger and Pettibone, between Lewisburg & Hwy 20 resulted in Level-3 "Go Now!" evacuation notifications for approximately 20 homes, and required support from four counties and numerous fire organizations. The next day, another wildfire occurred between Philomath and Alsea, and also required a multi-day/multi-organization response to address. Evacuation-level fires can and DO happen right here in Benton County.

Since the landfill was not even considered in the most recent CWPP, you have no basis with which to state that you can safely close Coffin Butte Road as an emergency egress route. The only way for you to ensure that our primary egress route remains a viable option, unless and until proven otherwise, is to deny this expansion application.

Approving LU-24-027 *seriously interferes with* and places an *undue burden* on the safe use of adjacent properties & public facilities, including the safety of all current and future residents of Soap Creek and Tampico neighborhoods during wildfire, earthquake, or other emergency egress situations, because we will no longer be guaranteed that this road will not be closed by future persons responsible for the landfill or employed by Benton County.

The sitting commissioners as of October 2025 are solely responsible for ensuring this egress route stays open in perpetuity. Please embrace the faith and responsibility that the current residents of Benton County have placed in you when you make your decision on this land use application.

Respectfully & faithfully,
Kate Harris

Benton County Planning Commissioners c/o Planning Division
4500 SW Research Way, Corvallis, OR 97333

July 9, 2025

RE: LU-24-027 Conditional Use Permit Application Regarding Landfill Expansion:
Adair Village Drinking Water

Good Evening Chair Fowler & Commissioners,

My name is Kate Harris, I reside at 37268 Moss Rock Dr, 4 miles due south of Coffin Butte Landfill. I have a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Portland, in which I studied water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants, and solid waste management, including Coffin Butte Landfill specifically. Thank you for the long hours you've put into this process & for your thoughtful consideration of this matter, the future of our county & our neighbors rests upon your shoulders. I do not envy your current task.

Thank you to Virginia Scott for her time, please refer to her written testimony submitted today regarding a rebuttal about fire considerations, including this quote: "Self-monitoring by Republic Services is like the fox guarding the hen house. Thus approval with conditions is exactly the same as approval without conditions. These conditions will never be met, no monitoring will be done, no repercussions to Republic Services will occur, all bad current behavior will continue unabated on a larger scale, and the community, environment, businesses, forest, land, people, health, air, water, wildlife, etc., will suffer (dead hens in the hen house). This is the very the definition of undue burden."

I'm here this evening to discuss the impact of Coffin Butte's current and future operations on waterways, the environment & drinking water. My points are relevant to this expansion discussion, because any expansion will only exacerbate the issues I will raise.

To quote *The Brocovich Report* publication's article, "No Surprise: PFAS Found Near Wastewater Treatment Plants & Biosolid-Applied Lands":

"A new analysis from Waterkeeper Alliance warns that 98 percent of tested waterways across 19 states contain toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and in particular downstream from wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) and sites where biosolids have been applied. The researchers connected this finding to the disproportionate siting of sources of environmental pollution including PFAS contamination such as major manufacturers, airports, military bases, wastewater treatment plants, and landfills that are typically located near watersheds serving these communities. Listen, we've known we have a huge PFAS problem, and now we have more data to prove it. That's a good thing. American communities are exposed daily, often unknowingly, and many face serious, disproportionate health risks. The tools to address this crisis exist, but the political will is lacking. We cannot afford more watered-down regulations and loopholes for industrial source

polluters. The science is clear: EPA and lawmakers must act decisively, and with urgency, in the public's interest. If you get your drinking water from a private well, you may want to test your water to find out exactly what's in it. You can contact a state-certified lab for professional analysis. Some counties may offer free or discounted tests, so check with local authorities first."

Does Republic or the County offer these free tests to residents?

Republic testimony yesterday stated that an official from Adair Village said there was not a problem with PFAS contamination.

That is most likely "true" as it has apparently never been tested, or the very least, **never been reported to the public.** The 2024 water test report is available <https://adairvillage.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Adair-Village-CCR-2024.pdf>

To clarify discussion yesterday about Adair Village. Pat Hare is the City Administrator for the City of Adair Village, and I believe he may be the entity referenced by Petra yesterday, as the one who was contacted twice, but chose to give no input. I do not know if his City Council or Mayor was privy to that discussion or their ability to provide input. Adair Rural Fire Protection District is a separate and unrelated organization, which was never contacted by the county regarding this expansion application, although did voluntarily submit testimony in May. The county did not seek interested-party information from the fire district.

Back to the discussion of Adair Village's drinking water. Pat Hare and his family live in Scio and therefore he doesn't have any specific family safety concerns with the quality of water in Adair Village. He has done a lot of amazing work for the water system in recent years, and should be very proud of the work he's done, but that work does not guarantee safety. I personally sent an email to him, Adair's mayor, the head of their planning commission, and the superintendent for the school in Adair Village, in 2021, regarding concerns for drinking water safety and air quality. I received no replies. I was told third hand that Pat's method of dealing with concerns like that is to simply ignore the emails. Perhaps that is also what he did with any requests sent from the County.

When I lived on the Adair Village water system from 2014 to 2017, many of us had concerns of extremely high chlorine. Those concerns were dealt with inappropriately, by the same staff that is currently working the water system.

I would not rely on Republic's statement last night that Pat said "his water is fine". Where are the tests? If they wanted to prove it was fine, why did Republic not fund PFAS testing for Adair Village drinking water? Isn't that what a good neighborhood would do? What about all of the neighboring private wells? Where are those test results?

Adair water quality won't be a player in this discussion if Corvallis really stops taking leachate at the end of the year. But as we heard yesterday, Republic doesn't have a plan, so it's still worth discussing.

Pat Hare just received confirmation of \$4 million from the state for his new wastewater treatment plant. Past discussions have included Republic adding funding for that new plant so they could treat leachate there. That discharge is reported to be upstream of the Adair water intake in the Willamette, so Adair water quality really should be part of this discussion moving forward, until we have binding contracts in place stating leachate will not end up in local drinking water sources.

But where will it end up?

Perhaps the discussion should be redirected to what constitutes an undue burden. Any landfill in the Willamette Valley creates an undue burden on the population and waterways in the Valley, and thereby on the character of the area. Republic's own corporate website, discusses that landfills in arid locations produce very little leachate, often so little that it can be used for dust control, on top of the landfill, thereby containing the toxins to the lined cells themselves. Not impacting any population, nearby waterway, or character of the area.

So perhaps this discussion should be less about what drinking water or well tests have or have not been funded by Republic as a good neighbor, and whether or not this landfill should be here at all. Expanding the amount of leachate produced by Coffin Butte is in and of itself an UNDUE BURDEN to the character of the area, namely the environment and entire population of Western Oregon. While we're on that topic, why don't we ask the county to produce the documentation that shows that the expansion into Cell 6, the quarry, is actually approved by permit. Operations in the quarry may also be an unapproved undue burden to the local population and the population of Western Oregon. Republic has the ability to transport and dispose of this waste in arid locations east of the Cascades, via rail, ultimately reducing their truck trips and carbon footprint, counter to the testimony by Linda Brewer earlier this evening. We have seen examples in other counties of waste disposal costs going down with a loss of monopoly and introduction of alternative disposal options, also counter to Ms. Brewer's testimony.

This discussion of expansion here in the Willamette Valley needs to stop, and we need to start discussing how to move waste disposal out of the Willamette Valley.

Thank you for your time over these many months. We all appreciate your efforts.

2024 Water Quality Report

We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and the services we deliver to you each day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water resources.

Your water meets all state and federal regulations for safety.

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. We are committed to providing you with the information because we want you to be informed. For more information about your water call 541-745-5507 during business hours.

Drinking water sources

Your water comes from the Willamette River at Hyak Park. Source water assessment information may be obtained from your Public Works Department at 541-230-0039 during business hours.

Public participation opportunities

Adair Village city council meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm at the Adair Community Building at 6030 William R. Carr Ave. Adair Village, OR. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

Contaminants in water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- *Pesticides & herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential use.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which are naturally occurring.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also can come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- *Lead*, if present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Adair Village is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Water quality monitoring

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Water quality data

The table in this report lists all the drinking water contaminants we detected during the 2024 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not

necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table are from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2024. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Notes for Immuno-compromised Individuals

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that your water is SAFE at these levels. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune compromised persons such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders are at risk. Some elderly people and infants can also be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about their drinking water from the health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Terms and Abbreviations

Action Levels

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment technique or other requirement which a water system must follow.

MCL

Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of contaminant in drinking water that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

ppm

Parts per million: One ppm is roughly equivalent to 1 milligram per liter. A one part per million salt solution would be about one teaspoon of salt divided equally among two dozen 55-gallon drums of water. One part per million is equivalent to one penny in a thousand dollars.

ppb

Parts per billion; One ppb is roughly equivalent to 1 milligram per 1000 liters.

Primary Standard

Legally enforceable standards issued by the US EPA. Primary standards limit the level of specific contaminants that are allowed to be present in public drinking water supplies.

ND

No contaminant was detected in the test.

Sampling and Reporting of Compliance Violations

The state and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety.

If you have any questions regarding this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the City of Adair Village at (541)-745-5507. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you would like to learn more, please attend our regular City Council Meetings.

Water Quality Monitoring Reports

The information below summarizes the most recent test results (2024) of detected levels of primary standards found in your drinking water. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the City of Adair Village during business hours (541-745-5507).

Parameters	MCL	MCLG	Our Water	Sample Date ¹	Violation (Y or N)	Typical Source of Contamination
VOC	NA	NA	ND	2024	N	Volatile organic compounds- paints, paint strippers and other solvents such as aerosol sprays, cleansers, stored fuels and automotive products to name a few.
Nitrate as Nitrogen (ppm)	10	10	47	2024	N	A metal found in natural deposits as ores containing other elements.
Total Organic Carbon	2.0	NA	1.02	2024	N	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (ntu)	1.0 95%<0.30	NA	0.123 max	2024	N	Soil runoff
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	.080	NA	0.0125	2024	N	Bi-product of disinfection
Haa5 (Halo acetic Acids) (ppb)	.060	NA	0.0119	2024	N	Bi-products of disinfection
SOC	Due 2026			2026	N	Synthetic organic compounds- herbicides, insecticides, pesticides, and or fungicides.
Lead (ppb)	Action Level 90% of homes tested must have tested < .015	.015		Due in 2025	N	Corrosion of household piping.
¹ Some testing is not required annually. This date is the year of the most recent test.						
Unregulated Contaminants						
Asbestos MFL	7.0 MFL	NA	ND	2019	N	Corrosion from piping

The EPA requires the following statements by all water providers regardless of whether there are contaminants in the water supply. Adair Village's water is safe and fulfills all EPA requirements.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)

What areas are included in Adair Village water system's Drinking Water Protection Area?

The drinking water for Adair Village Water System is supplied by an intake on the Willamette River. This public water system serves approximately 650 residences. The intake is located in the Marys River/Muddy Creek Watershed in the Upper Willamette Sub basin of the Willamette Basin. The drinking water intakes for the City of Philomath, City of Corvallis, and Pope & Talbot, Inc. public water systems are also located on the Willamette River or its tributaries upstream of the Adair Village intake. This assessment addressed the geographic area providing water to Adair Village's intake (Adair Village's portion of the drinking water protection area) between Adair Village's intake and the next upstream intakes for Philomath (on the Marys River) and Corvallis (on the Willamette River). The geographic area providing water to Adair Village's intake (Adair Village's portion of the drinking water protection area) extends upstream approximately 424 miles in a southerly direction and encompasses a total area of 366 square miles. Included in this area are a number of tributaries to the main stem, including Marys River and its tributaries, Muddy Creek and Little Muddy Creek. The protection area within an 8-hour travel time from the intake extends approximately 14 miles upstream of the Adair Village intake.

What are the potential sources of contamination to Adair Village Water System's public drinking water supply?

Potential contaminant sources identified include clear cuts, non-irrigated crops, nurseries grazing animals, two unknown commercial operations, gas stations, a communication company, junk yard, fabrication/manufacture companies, lumber companies, hospitals, electronic manufacturer, DEQ cleanup sites, public works shops, gravel companies, high density housing, rural homesteads, two wastewater treatment plants, two water treatment plants, parks, schools, storm water outfalls, sewer lines, fire stations, a golf course, several research facilities, Oregon State University and five transportation corridors.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS FOR OUR SYSTEM?

A total of 47 potential contaminant sources were identified in Adair Village Water System's drinking water protection area. Of these, 40 are located in the sensitive areas and 37 are high- to moderate-risk sources within "sensitive areas". The sensitive areas within the Adair Village Water System drinking water protection area include areas with high soil permeability, high soil erosion potential, high runoff potential and areas within 1000' from the river/streams. The sensitive areas are those where the potential contamination sources, if present, have a greater potential to impact the water supply.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPNs Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

This water quality report was prepared by the City of Adair Village, OR.

We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and the services we deliver to you each day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water resources.

Your water meets all state and federal regulations for safety.

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. We are committed to providing you with the information because we want you to be informed. For more information about your water call 541-745-5507 during business hours.

Drinking water sources

Your water comes from the Willamette River at Hyak Park. Source water assessment information may be obtained from your Public Works Department at 541-230-0039 during business hours.

Public participation opportunities

Adair Village city council meetings are held on the First Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm at the Adair Community Building at 6030 William R. Carr Ave. Adair Village, OR. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

Contaminants in water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- *Pesticides & herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential use.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which are naturally occurring.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also can come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- *Lead*. If present elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women & young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines & home plumbing. The City of Adair Village is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Water quality monitoring

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Water quality data

The table in this report lists all the drinking water contaminants we detected during the 2022 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table are from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2022. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Notes for Immuno-compromised Individuals

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that your water is SAFE at these levels. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune compromised persons such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders are at risk. Some elderly people and infants can also be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about their drinking water from the health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Terms and Abbreviations

Action Levels

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment technique or other requirement which a water system must follow.

MCL

Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of contaminant in drinking water that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

ppm

Parts per million: One ppm is roughly equivalent to 1 milligram per liter. A one part per million salt solution would be about one teaspoon of salt divided equally among two dozen 55-gallon drums of water. One part per million is equivalent to one penny in a thousand dollars.

ppb

Parts per billion: One ppb is roughly equivalent to 1 milligram per 1000 liters.

Primary Standard

Legally enforceable standards issued by the US EPA. Primary standards limit the level of specific contaminants that are allowed to be present in public drinking water supplies.

ND

No contaminant was detected in the test.

Sampling and Reporting of Compliance Violations

The state and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety.

If you have any questions regarding this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the City of Adair Village at (541)-745-5507. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you would like to learn more, please attend our regular City Council Meetings

Water Quality Monitoring Reports

The information below summarizes the most recent test results (2022) of detected levels of primary standards found in your drinking water. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the City of Adair Village during business hours (541-745-5507).

Parameters	MCL	MCLG	Our Water	Sample Date ¹	Violation (Y or N)	Typical Source of Contamination
VOC	NA	NA	ND	2022	N	Volatile Organic Compounds- Paints, paint strippers and other solvents. Aerosol sprays, cleansers, stored fuels and automotive products to name a few.
Nitrate as Nitrogen (ppm)	10	10	ND	2022	N	A metal found in natural deposits as ores containing other elements.
Total Organic Carbon	2.0	NA	0.88	2022	N	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (ntu)	1.0 95%<0.30	NA	0.172 max	2022	N	Soil Runoff
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	.080	NA	0.0083	2022	N	Bi-Product of disinfection
Haa5 (Halo acetic Acids) (ppb)	.060	NA	0.0093	2022	N	Bi-Products of disinfection
SOC	Varied MCL for several different compounds	NA	ND	2022	N	Synthetic organic compounds- Herbicides, Insecticides, Pesticides, and or Fungicides.
Lead (ppb)	Action Level 90% of homes tested must have tested < .015	.015	90% was 0.0 ppb	2022	N	Corrosion of household piping.
¹ Some testing is not required annually. This date is the year of the most recent test.						
Unregulated Contaminants						
Asbestos MFL	7.0 MFL	NA	ND	2019	N	Corrosion from piping

The EPA requires the following statements by all water providers regardless of whether there are contaminants in the water supply. Adair Village's water is safe and fulfills all EPA requirements.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)

What areas are included in Adair Village water system's Drinking Water Protection Area?

The drinking water for Adair Village Water System is supplied by an intake on the Willamette River. This public water system serves approximately 650 citizens. The intake is located in the Marys River/Muddy Creek Watershed in the Upper Willamette Sub basin of the Willamette Basin. The drinking water intakes for the City of Philomath, City of Corvallis, and Pope & Talbot, Inc. public water systems are also located on the Willamette River or its tributaries upstream of the Adair Village intake. This assessment addressed the geographic area providing water to Adair Village's intake (Adair Village's portion of the drinking water protection area) between Adair Village's intake and the next upstream intakes for Philomath (on the Marys River) and Corvallis (on the Willamette River). The geographic area providing water to Adair Village's intake (Adair Village's portion of the drinking water protection area) extends upstream approximately 424 miles in a southerly direction and encompasses a total area of 366 square miles. Included in this area are a number of tributaries to the main stem, including Marys River and its tributaries, Muddy Creek and Little Muddy Creek. The protection area within an 8-hour travel time from the intake extends approximately 14 miles upstream of the Adair Village intake.

What are the potential sources of contamination to Adair Village Water System's public drinking water supply?

Potential contaminant sources identified include clear cuts, non-irrigated crops, non-irrigated crops, nurseries grazing animals, two unknown commercial operations, gas stations, a communication company, junk yard, fabrication/manufacturing companies, lumber companies, hospitals, electronic manufacturer, DEQ cleanup sites, public works shops, gravel companies, high density housing, rural homesteads, two wastewater treatment plants, two water treatment plants, parks, schools, storm water outfalls, sewer lines, fire stations, a golf course, several research facilities, Oregon State University and five transportation corridors.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS FOR OUR SYSTEM?

A total of 47 potential contaminant sources were identified in Adair Village Water System's drinking water protection area. Of these, 40 are located in the sensitive areas and 37 are high- to moderate-risk sources within "sensitive areas". The sensitive areas within the Adair Village Water System drinking water protection area include areas with high soil permeability, high soil erosion potential, high runoff potential and areas within 1000' from the river/streams. The sensitive areas are those where the potential contamination sources, if present, have a greater potential to impact the water supply.

22 October 2025

Dear Benton County Commissioners,

The testimony attached below is a written copy of my verbal testimony, given to the Benton County Planning Commission on May 8th, 2025.

A video version of this testimony can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2EbIcSWdd0>

or a shortcut link: <http://bit.ly/47D9tpW>

The points I made below have been additionally highlighted by continued communication, deadline and technology issues at the hands of an overwhelmed County Staff with processing the continued testimony submitted by citizens, Republic Services, and various consultants through today, October 22nd, 2025. This landfill and its related operations, such as monitoring and enforcing past Conditions of Approval and land-use criteria, and most notably this expansion process, are better suited for a much larger County, with more staff-hours, a larger budget, and specific expertise with which to manage such a detailed operation. Benton County has continued to operate as if they do not have the expertise or consultants to evaluate additional testimony submitted by Republic Services, and therefore choose to trust what is being presented to them, despite numerous examples of falsities engrained in Republic's submissions.

As just one additional example of falsities, in the additional documentation submitted by Republic Services in June, 2025, the Fire Expert stated that a fire could never occur in the truck refueling area, which did indeed occur on April 6th, 2025, as shared by the Corvallis Fire Department all over social media.

How are Benton County staff and commissioners verifying the truth of all information submitted by Republic Services? We've pointed out numerous instances of deliberate or accidental inaccuracies, but what else is also untrue and misleading to the future health, safety, and financial prosperity of Benton County? If you are unsure of this, it is your duty to deny any additional expansion until all information can be confirmed as true and accurate.

Sincerely, Maj Kate Harris

Verbal Testimony, May 8th, 2025:

Chair Fowler and members of the Planning Commission, my name is Major Kate Harris, a former Air Force Evaluator Pilot with a degree in Civil Engineering, a Masters in Public Administration, formerly on a Hospital Board of Directors, and most importantly the mother to 3 young children who were present at the Tuesday hearing, and I live at 37268 Moss Rock Dr, Corvallis.

I am here today in strong opposition of the Coffin Butte Landfill expansion and to demonstrate that any expansion will impose an undue burden on services available to the area per BCC 53.215. I will be discussing four topics, The Burden of Truth, Spin Doctors, The Burden of Safety, and The People's Burden.

You've already heard or read arguments discussing burden placed on transportation, the health and livability of the air and water sources, usability of the area for recreation, as well as others. Tonight, I will be discussing the primary burden that the current expansion is placing on services available to the area. Namely, the requirement of thousands of citizen and county staff hours, which have been dedicated to interpreting Republic's application to determine what is true, what has been omitted, and was is deceitful.

The complexity of this operation and application have completely overwhelmed the capacity of Benton County's own staff. Despite the kind and thoughtful members on staff, technology and communication problems have been present throughout this process, continuing even to several emails I received coordinating this slot to speak. It is no wonder that the County has NOT been able to enforce prior Conditions of Approval if they can't even manage the technology and communication requirements it takes to consider such a complex application for such complex operations. [Inga Williams, in her former role as County Associate Planner, stated in an email that she could not include Coffin Butte Landfill in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan because she did not have the knowledge to do so.]

Within the Staff Report for this application, there are numerous cases where the staff states it does not have the capacity to evaluate certain details, and therefore can provide no additional comment on that section. Given this, how can you expect the Staff to have the capacity to ascertain what parts of the application are accurate, omitted, or deceitful?

One example of the need to determine the truth is from the applicant's *Fire Risk Assessment, update from September 2024* page 3, in reference to the

garbage and hydraulic lifter fire on May 18th, 2024, "Adair Fire was on standby at the site but not needed to actively engage the fire." This is outright false, as pictures from that event clearly show two simultaneous water streams being applied to the tippers by Adair Volunteer Firefighters. These pictures have been available on social media for nearly a year, not hidden on somebody's phone.

Another example, referencing the 1999 fire, the risk assessment states, "On-site staff was joined by the local fire department, Adair Rural Fire and Rescue (Adair Fire), which assisted to extinguish the fire after several hours," whereas the Associated Press and personnel reports discuss this fire burning for more than 24-hours. Per Webster's Dictionary referenced by Mr. Kleinman, *several* is defined as "more than two but fewer than many". In this case, it is deceitful for the applicant to claim the 1999 fire was "extinguished after several hours."

Approving this application places an undue burden on the entire county, until you the Planning Commission can ascertain what components are accurate, have been omitted, or are deceitful, whether intentionally or not. It is also impossible to determine the level of undue burdens that will be imposed by the actual expansion if the application doesn't include full truths.

If the truth of this application is in such question, what are we left to believe about reports on the ongoing operations of this landfill, as Republic's supposedly most profitable landfill? In just one area of operations, methane leaks, we are still waiting to see what the EPA has to say on the reliability of Republic's self-reported information.

Which brings me to Spin Doctors. I would like to introduce you to two people from Republic Services – key players on their team: Ginger Richardson (sometimes appearing as Ginger Rough) and Russ Knocke. They are on a special team at Republic Services – Information Control. The common term is "spin doctors."

Commissioner Biscoe may remember them from the Talks Trash workgroup. Ginger Richardson participated throughout BCTT and Russ Knocke appeared from time to time.

Commissioners, we'll introduce into evidence at least one document from that time, showing the spin doctors at work. What happened was, a member of the Subcommittee studying landfill life proposed that the Subcommittee's report should include a section on the dump closing early because of environmental violations. The scenario he imagined had to do with excessive methane emissions. Our evidence shows that Ginger Richardson urged the BCTT

Facilitator to strike all evidence of that idea from the BCTT record. To make it appear as if it had never been said.

We didn't know at the time that the EPA had already begun its investigation of Coffin Butte Landfill for excessive methane emissions. Republic successfully hid that event from everyone for over a year, until reporter Tracy Loew broke the story in the Salem Statesman Journal in the fall of 2023. She found out by using the Freedom of Information Act. We will enter all of Tracy Loew's reporting into the record.

You may note that Ginger Richardson's name appears here and there in Republic's application. You may not realize that her presence shows itself nearly everywhere in Republic's communications. We'll introduce evidence detailing how the company's communications have been crafted to spin the facts and obscure the truth. I think that evidence will go on and on, but we urge you to read it all.

Tonight, my time is limited, so I'll just point out two examples.

First, this statement from the Application: that the dump has "three times the industry standard" of wells extracting landfill gas. This is brought forward as a proud achievement – Commissioners, it is anything but.

Here's how the regulatory system works: If a landfill finds a methane leak, the operators have 10 days to remediate that leak. That is, they try to fix it, then test again in 10 days. If they haven't fixed it, the operators then have more 30 days to fix it. So they test again in 30 days to see if it's still leaking. If it is, if the operators fail to control the leak, the regulations require them to drill a new well right there, to try to at least reduce the pressure to that unmitigated leak.

Once you know that, the 300-plus gas wells at Coffin Butte Landfill are an unmistakable sign of widespread failure of the dump's gas collection system to stop uncontrolled emissions of landfill gas. And the millions of dollars Republic has spent drilling all those wells is put into its proper regulatory context. We'll introduce into evidence a detailed breakdown of that failure.

My second example is how "the life of the landfill" is portrayed throughout Republic's communications. Simply put, it's portrayed as if the dump will run at full speed until it's full – as though annual intake volume is a set number, out of anyone's control.

Commissioners, the annual intake volume is not a set number. It is a dynamic number, set entirely by Republic. The truth is, for Benton County residents, the life of disposal service is through the year 2040 – that is, we have guaranteed service for 15 more years. That's ironclad, it's in the franchise agreement. And

that number has nothing to do, actually, with the dump. If the dump closes tomorrow, the life of disposal service for Benton County residents is through the year 2040.

You can see how it benefits Republic Services to spin “life of the landfill” this way. It’s so they can constantly raise the specter of the dump filling up, and Benton County suddenly having no place to put its garbage. Republic has been relentless on this spin, and largely successful at duping the public into thinking there’s a crisis of capacity looming just ahead. We’ll introduce evidence of this spin throughout time. – The truth is, Benton County government has done its job, and Benton County residents are legally protected – well, as much as anyone can be legally protected from a company with a market cap of \$79 billion.

Republic is really worried about two issues with the dump expansion in particular: the pollutants methane and arsenic. As you review the letters submitted in Republic’s Burden of Proof – the half-legal, half-technical one about methane emissions, on page 119, and the definitely technical one about arsenic, on page 121, please note that they are not signed by engineers or technical people. They are signed by Ginger Richardson.

So, Commissioners, when you look at the materials Republic provides for you – especially their upcoming rebuttal to public testimony – please keep in mind who’s writing them.

My third topic tonight is the Burden of Safety. As a former combat, instructor and evaluator pilot in the Air Force, Safety was absolute priority. We would cancel combat sorties and Presidential Coverage missions if pre-flight mechanical or personnel safety concerns arose. Safety is no joking matter. We also worked incredibly hard to build and promote an overarching culture of safety, in which all ranks were taught and encouraged to speak up and report any safety concerns that they saw, regardless of mission status, both in the plane and in everyday work. The goal of this was to encourage all of our decisions to be viewed through a safety mindset, with the very real outcome of preventing airplane crashes. It was also to normalize reporting of systemic issues, so that we could discuss and remedy them before they led to catastrophic failures. This safety mindset is also applied in hospital systems. Our local hospital system believes so strongly in a safety mindset culture, that they host daily safety huddles, as well as begin formal meetings with a “Safety Moment” to discuss something that occurred, or nearly occurred, to allow everyone to learn from the situation in hopes of preventing future harm. The hospital has based their safety culture on

best practices from other high risk industries, most notably aviation, submarines, and nuclear reactors.

In such a high-risk operation as landfilling at Coffin Butte, with far-reaching consequences, particularly one which contains nuclear waste, disposes of leachate in a drinking water resource, and covers nearby communities in unknown gases, I would expect nothing less than ensuring they operate with a comprehensive safety mindset. All of these side-effects cause undue burdens on the local services and community, and I will propose that their lack of operating with a safety mindset poses additional undue burdens on local facilities and services.

In Republic's Coffin Butte Landfill Operating Procedures, dated April 2013, which is quoted verbatim in Appendix 20 to this application, Fire Risk Assessment, Step 5 of Section 8.1 States, "In case of a fire...The DEQ is notified of the event" and Section 8.2 states, "Emergencies regarding fire or leachate excursions are reported to the DEQ".

From Republic's Coffin Butte Safety webpage, "Safety is our top priority and a core value at Republic Services. And it's tied to another of our core values, to be human-centered."

If Republic operated in a safety-mindset manner, they would be more than happy to submit all of the documentation of all fires and leachate excursions reported as required to DEQ. Yet when I presented fire safety questions to DSAC last September, Bret Davis could not tell DSAC how many fires they had recently, nor did he offer to simply collect all of the DEQ notifications that are submitted per their operations plan. And, has there been any followup about the most recent leachate excursion as queried by Joel Geier (like Meyer) to the DEQ over the past few months? It's astonishing to me that we have not seen any evidence of Post-Event Reports or After Action Reports from Republic, detailing each and every fire they have, what the cause was, how it was handled, and how future fires might be prevented. After Action Reports, or the like, are standard practice in high-risk industries that do indeed operate with safety in mind.

Without documentation showing an accurate history of the safety events that have occurred at Coffin Butte & the actions taken by Republic to minimize their future occurrences, the Planning Commission cannot accurately know or determine the extent of undue burden that are placed on local facilities and services by this operation or by any expansion.

In addition to those three academic points, I must also include discussion of The People's Burden. I, along with so many of my neighbors, have spent countless hours over the past four years highlighting the local burdens imposed by this monstrous operation. We have ignored our families, gotten kids to bed too late, missed work, neglected growing pot holes and exploding poison oak groves to focus on not allowing this community burden to grow any larger. Erin Brockovich did not become famous because her fight was short or easy. We would all prefer to get back to tackling our plumes of poison oak and back-breaking pot-hole filing than drag this on, capture additional National attention and become Brockovich or Flint Michigan 2.0.

My 11 year old son and 9 year old daughter were brave enough to speak to the State of Oregon House Committee on Climate, Energy & Environment, last week, requesting additional comprehensive methane monitoring for Oregon Landfills to help ensure safe air where they live and go to school, adding burden to them, by missing school. They both hoped to speak tonight, but ceded their time to me since they will likely need to be asleep before their slot time and we were not allowed to swap their time to earlier. They were going to speak about the burden on their Grandparents, who purchased a home in Adair in 1974, sold that house & bought a house on Tampico in 1995. Based on the 1977 Solid Waste Management Plan, the county expected the landfill to close in 2000. This was confirmed yet again in 1983 and 1994, giving my in-laws expectations that their property purchase closer to Coffin Butte would be a safe financial and health decision. This expansion would bring the landfill closer to their property, where they live with my children's young cousins, and closer to the house where my 3 young children are growing up, seriously interfering with the health and safety of all of our family's local property, that we all wish to leave to these future generations. If this landfill continues to expand and operate in an unsafe manner, our families must make hard decisions if we intend to stay in our homes or move to seek healthier locations.

Please consider the content of this application carefully, and deny it until and unless you can verify it's truth and completeness as you evaluate future burdens.

Sincerely,
Maj Kate Harris