EXHIBIT 28
REPUBLIC SERVICES LETTER TO THE BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGARDING METHANE EMISSIONS

REPUBLIC SERVICES

Sustainability in Action

To: Benton County Board of Commissioners

Date: 2/23/2024

Re: Follow-up to Methane Emissions Discussion

Dear Commissioners & Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional insights about methane emissions and differing perspectives at Coffin Butte Landfill, which was part of a broader discussion during the February 6 Board meeting. Also, please know that we heard your stated preference for timely communication and more transparency on substantive matters at Coffin Butte going forward. We are more than pleased to keep you updated and look forward to working with County Staff on both the details and process for future communications.

First, I respectfully offer these important facts about methane management at the Landfill:

- Coffin Butte has 3X more gas collection wells in operation today than industry best practices (typically 1 gas well per acre);
- We have invested more than $7m to upgrade and expand the gas collection system (57 new wells and 22k feet of piping) since 2019, which also exceeds industry standards;
- We are continually optimizing the gas collection system and plan to invest an additional $1.5m to add 14 new gas collection wells and 4,500 feet of piping this year;
- Our site team and consultants utilize a comprehensive maintenance regime, ensuring consistent and highly reliable system performance; and
- The PRC (Pacific Region Compost) is a nationally recognized diversion facility, processing 140k tons of organics annually, which has a direct correlation to methane emissions reductions locally.

In addition, you have a long-standing partner in Republic Services, and we are leading the industry in sustainability action. I am proud to share that we are the first U.S. environmental services provider with an emissions reduction goal approved by the Science Based Targets initiative. In addition, we have set an ambitious goal to reduce our absolute Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse emissions by 35 percent by 2030. Finally, we are an active participant in methane policy conversations at federal and state levels as well as with industry peers and environmental NGOs, with the goal of helping stakeholders find common understandings, share best practices, address differing perspectives, and identify solutions. We are proud to be putting sustainability into action and believe our leadership in this area directly benefits the customers and communities we serve nationwide, to include here in Benton County.

During our February 6 discussion, you asked for more explanation on the EPA's June 2022 inspection and subsequent report on methane exceedances at Coffin Butte, as well as the differing perspectives on that inspection and methane modeling in general. These topics are further addressed below.

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June 2022 EPA Inspection

This one-day inspection was not unique to Coffin Butte, but rather similar in nature to other EPA methane inspections in recent years at landfills across the country. What was unique about our experience, however, is that the inspection occurred during a planned landfill gas collection enhancement project, which is reflective of the major investments outlined above.

At the time of the inspection, Coffin Butte was in the early stages of a weeks-long construction project to install six new vertical collection wells and nine new horizontal collection wells. While one primary purpose of those enhancements was to increase the amount of methane and other biogas captured on site, the work itself involved activities that temporarily increased surface exceedances, such as trench digging.

The EPA inspector did ask if the landfill's gas collection system was operational and running normally, and our engineers responded it was. However, it is also true that at various times during the construction, the overall efficiency and capacity of the gas collection was impacted by the site team needing to turn down the vacuum in certain collection wells, not to mention adjusting landfill cover layers and digging through locations where waste had been disposed.

In many respects, surface exceedances of the type documented by EPA during their inspection would be expected, given the work necessary to make these gas collection system enhancements.

That aside, it is important to note that EPA uses a different investigative practice for identifying landfill emissions. And this correlates directly to the differences you commented on during our February 6 discussion.

Typically, a landfill operator will employ specially trained consultants to conduct regular "surface monitoring" along a consistent pathway to determine, locate, and remediate any points where methane exceeds 500 parts per million. Under EPA protocols, the monitoring device is to be held five to 10 centimeters above ground. The data from these routine practices are submitted to regulators as part of regular reporting.

In general, and at Coffin Butte during their June 2022 inspection, the EPA's environmental technicians take a different approach. They do not walk a consistent pathway, but rather seek out individual points with potential exceedances, probing into cracks, moving rocks, or lifting tarps and cover. In addition, inspectors do not consistently hold their measuring probe at the prescribed height of five to 10 centimeters above ground.

Another salient point about the June 2022 inspection is that the Coffin Butte team was not provided details from EPA technicians with respect to the calibration of equipment used. Typical regulator best practices involve calibrating equipment onsite, following specific protocols. Unfortunately, that did not happen in this case; instead, the inspector calibrated the equipment before arriving at the Landfill.

Ultimately, the EPA reported that their technicians documented 61 exceedances of 500 parts per million, and 21 of those were considered in their estimation to be more significant in scope.

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Finally, it is appropriate to state that we believe that regulations, in general, and inspections of this nature, are important and necessary for all. We respect the EPA and its oversight role, and we collaborate with regulators at all levels whenever appropriate and possible. With respect to the June 2022 inspection, Coffin Butte responded to EPA's findings with corrective actions that included completing the ongoing gas collection enhancement project and adjusting soil cover. To the best of our knowledge, the EPA remains satisfied with those corrective actions and to date no notices of violation have been issued.

Differing Perspectives

Without question, the topic of landfill emissions is one of the more poignant issues in climate conversations today, involving not just landfill operators and regulators, but environmental NGOs and communities large and small nationwide. Beyond the differences in measurement practices noted above, one issue that continues to be debated is how best to model and quantify emissions.

For example, there is considerable discussion among stakeholders about the role of satellite and drone technology in comparison with the more traditional practices involving handheld probing devices. For our part, we have worked (and expect to continue to work) with NGOs and regulators on the application of various advanced technologies, to include fly-over technologies.

While there is a lot of promise with such technologies, there is also ongoing debate about the true accuracy of point in time data captured at dynamic operating environments like municipal solid waste landfills. That's because emissions can fluctuate considerably, often over the course of a day. This can occur for a variety of reasons, including the age and type of waste deposited at the landfill, cover and soil make-up, weather conditions, and the efficiency of a site's gas collection system.

Further, these variables have spurred another policy discussion among stakeholders – what is the appropriate way to model and determine a site's actual, consistent emissions levels if using point in time data collection.

We are optimistic that one day there will be more alignment among the many stakeholders on these issues, as well as continued technological advancements. But for now, please know that the issues you raise are not unique to Benton County. And, if anything, we hope that you will appreciate the fact that Coffin Butte has been proactive in emissions management and reductions and in many respects is a model for industry best practices.

I trust this provides you with the information you were seeking. But, as always, please do not hesitate to contact us with additional questions.

Sincerely,

Ginger Rough
Sr. Manager for Public Affairs