
EXHIBIT 29
REPUBLIC SERVICES LETTER TO THE BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RELATING TO ARSENIC



Sustainability in Action

To: Benton County Commissioners

Date: 2/15/2024

Dear Commissioner Augerot,

During Republic Services' annual report presentation on Feb. 6, you asked that we follow up with you on three topics. In this email, I'd like to address your questions regarding arsenic levels in the monitoring wells at Coffin Butte Landfill. Thank you for giving me the time and opportunity to come back to you with additional information.

We noted in our landfill annual report (page 9) that "the primary drinking water standard for arsenic was exceeded" at the compliance boundary for Cells 4 and 5 on the landfill's east side, but that these "concentrations represent natural background conditions."

This week, we asked our Coffin Butte Landfill consultant, Eric Tuppan, for additional detail. Tuppan, a registered geologist, and owner/operator of Tuppan Consultants, LLC., has 40 years of industry experience. He founded his Oregon-based geology, hydrogeology, and environmental consulting firm consulting firm in 2003.

In summary:

- The presence of arsenic in soil and rock in Oregon has been documented by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality with background concentrations specific to geographic regions.
- In the Portland Basin, the background concentration is 8.8 milligrams per kilogram; in the Cascade Range it is 19 milligrams per kilogram; and in the South Willamette Valley (where Coffin Butte is located) it is 18 milligrams per kilogram.
- Arsenic has been detected in three areas of the landfill since sampling first began in 1991. These are described in the text that follows.
- There is no data to suggest that the existing arsenic levels are anything other than what is naturally occurring in the soil, or that leachate is impacting the environment or public health.

As you noted during the Feb. 6 meeting, there was a seepage event that occurred at the Landfill in the 1990s. Valley Landfills Inc. (VLI) discovered this issue in 1994, after groundwater monitoring samples in well MW-23, located on the south side of Cell 2, showed elevated levels of arsenic.

At the time of the investigation, VLI determined that increased concentrations of arsenic, chloride, sodium, and bicarbonate were due to leachate seeping from the south slope of Cell 2. Corrective measures, including excavating the south slope of the landfill and installing a gravel drain, fixed the issue and allowed groundwater quality to recover over time.



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The groundwater sampling referenced in our 2022 annual report was taken from two wells on the eastern side of the landfill, more than 1,000 feet away from the well that's located south of Cell 2.

These two compliance wells, which were installed in 2011, have had stable arsenic readings for the past 20 years, averaging 14.2 micrograms per liter at one site, and 13.3 micrograms per liter for the other.

Both these averages are consistent with the background concentrations of arsenic in the Willamette Valley, as documented by the Department of Environmental Quality. The steady readings over time indicate there have been no leachate releases or impacts on groundwater at these locations.

Arsenic testing at Coffin Butte initially began in April 1991, in well MW-S9 on the landfill's northeast side. This third location has historically had higher concentrations of arsenic, ranging from 27 to 41.8 micrograms per liter over the past 30 years.

However, it is important to note that the initial sampling at this well – which established baseline arsenic levels in background concentrations - occurred prior to the completion of Cell 2 construction or any landfilling on the east side of Coffin Butte.

Because this well is more than 1,800 feet away from MW-23, and because sampling occurred prior to the construction of Cell 2, it is implausible for the readings at this location to have been impacted by leachate.

Coffin Butte conducts groundwater sampling twice a year, in April and October, in a set number of locations as outlined in our DEQ-approved Environmental Monitoring Plan. That plan also specifies the frequency of testing at each well. The most recent sampling at well MW-S9 occurred in 2019 in collaboration with DEQ; it is set to be tested again later this year.

As noted in our 2022 annual report, the Landfill was inspected seven times by a variety of agencies, including the EPA, DEQ's Division of Material Management, DEQ's Division of Air Quality and the cities of Corvallis and Salem. In addition, we submitted annual, semi-annual, quarterly, and monthly reports to federal, state, and local regulators. Coffin Butte remains in compliance with all our permits and regulatory requirements.

I hope this email provides you with the information you requested. Should you have any follow-up questions, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at grough@republicservices.com.

Thank you,
Ginger Rough, Sr. Manager for Public Affairs