

From: [WYSE Nancy](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: LU-24-027 FW: VNEQS: refuse Coffin Butte Expansion extension request
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 4:51:07 PM

Nancy V. Wyse (She/hers)
Commissioner

Office: 541-766-6754 | Cell: 541-760-6067
Email: nancy.wyse@bentoncountyor.gov
Address: 4500 SW Research Way, Corvallis

www.bentoncountyor.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: VNEQS <valleyneighbors@coffinbuttefacts.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 11:12 AM
To: SCHUETZ Petra <petra.schuetz@bentoncountyor.gov>; WYSE Nancy <nancy.wyse@bentoncountyor.gov>; MALONE Patrick <Pat.Malone@bentoncountyor.gov>; SHEPHERD Gabe <gabe.shepherd@bentoncountyor.gov>; MCENENY Rachel <rachel.mceneny@bentoncountyor.gov>
Subject: VNEQS: refuse Coffin Butte Expansion extension request

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Dear Planning Official Schuetz, Commissioners Wyse, Malone and Shepherd, and Administrator McEneny:

We in the group VNEQS (Valley Neighbors for Environmental Quality and Safety) understand you will be discussing Jeff Condit's 58-day extension request at this Thursday's Commissioner meeting with Heads of Departments. Mr. Condit is proposing this two-month pause to the Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion Application timeline so that Republic Services can complete some odor studies.

We recommend against granting this extension. Here's why:

Republic Services has been dragging their feet and this feels like yet another attempt to stretch the process out. They've been given ample time to resubmit materials. With their Jan 15 submission, out of one side of their mouth they say what they've submitted is "complete for purposes of review"... yet out of the other side, say they want to "give you" this extension of time to review additional materials they want to develop ("technical adjustments" and "additional information on odor modeling and other issues") before you rule on completeness.

As one of our group says, this is like a teacher accepting a term paper, right at the deadline, from a student who claims they've completed the paper and wants to be graded as "on time" but at the same time wants another 58 days to come back and add "additional information" on "issues" before the teacher grades the paper.

Honestly, we think they are gaming you - and think it's high time you stood up to them and said enough is enough. Let them know you are through making special accommodations for them. Stick to the process: declare the application "incomplete" (it will move forward anyway, we know), and keep the ball rolling. As Mr. Condit notes, the process already has a way to accept any new information. We recommend against your granting them this latest "extension."

This issue should have been put to rest after the decision of the Planning Commission in 2021. The applicant did not present convincing arguments for an expansion then, nor have they presented convincing arguments with the passage of the latest deadline.

It's unreasonable to keep putting the community through this protracted level of stress when the applicant is still unable to present a complete and coherent application.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of VNEQS,

Debbie Palmer