

From: [Sandra Bryce](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: LU-24-027, Coffin Butte Landfill Conditional Use Permit Application
Date: Monday, April 21, 2025 9:47:02 AM
Attachments: [Bryce Coffin Butte testimony 4-20-25.pdf](#)

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Date: April 20, 2025

Reference: LU-24-027, Coffin Butte Landfill Conditional Use Permit Application

To: Benton County Planning Commission
Benton County Community Development
4500 SW Research Way
Corvallis, OR 97333-1139

Members of the Benton County Planning Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the proposed Coffin Butte Landfill Conditional Use Permit Application. I have lived in Corvallis for 45 years and worked in environmental research and monitoring during that time. Though there are many serious issues related to the expansion of the landfill, such as wildlife habitat connectivity, surface and groundwater contamination, I would like to comment on the production of methane and other noxious gases.

The proposed landfill expansion will adversely affect the character of the region, reducing air quality, producing noxious (unhealthy) odors, and releasing increasing quantities of greenhouse gases. We will simply see more of what we see now, incremental degradations with no stated limits to the amounts of outside trash, the expected number of methane flares, or the expected lifespan of the landfill. These ongoing and future degradations in the quality of life in the area are in violation of BCC 53.215 (1).

The decision on landfill expansion has serious implications for Benton County residents' quality of life for decades to come. Management of methane and air quality at the landfill in the recent past (meager, low-tech monitoring, dozens of methane leaks (EPA inspection, and lack of a current air quality permit) does not give one confidence about the future management of an even larger facility. Yet, it appears that the Benton County Planning Commission may be rushing into this decision without the advice of the Solid Waste and Disposal Site advisory councils that have been disbanded. This situation appears to be in violation of Benton County Comprehensive Plan policy 6.5.5 ("Benton County shall strive for the safe storage, collection, reduction, reuse, recovery, and appropriate disposal of hazardous waste materials."),

Logic tells us that Republic Services needs to demonstrate that they can manage the existing

landfill well and in compliance before any discussions of expansion can occur. In the meantime, we can debate the appropriate size and life span of this landfill rather than treating it like a growth industry that accepts trash from far and wide indefinitely.

Thank you,
Sandra Bryce
Corvallis

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