

From: [Sam i](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: Coffin Butte Expansion testimony written May 6, 2025
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 6:34:52 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

Clean air and water are precious vital resources for all of us. A feeling of safety and comfort on our roads is also a precious resource. The landfill expansion if approved weighs on our common resources to a greater extent and for longer.

This post war landfill is in a very wet part of a wet Valley.
Adair Village gets 51 inches of rain, on average, per year.
In Arlington, Oregon, the average annual rainfall is about 8.85 inches.

There is a strong link between wet conditions and methane production in landfills.
Every droplet of water that splashes down on an open landfill cell will slowly trickle through the trash, transforming into a concentrated liquid waste known as leachate, according to *The Problem of Leachate and Storm Water at the Modern Landfill-BTL Liners*

Moisture encourages bacterial decomposition, which is the primary process for methane generation in landfills.

And billowing tarps, tears and odors indicate the release of landfill gasses. Which contain also PFAS.

Landfill Gas

<https://www.eenews.net/articles/forever-chemicals-in-landfill-gas-higher-than-expected-study/>

“Researchers have detected “unexpectedly” high levels of PFAS in landfill gas, adding to a growing body of evidence on how “forever chemicals” leave waste sites.

“According to [an EPA-funded study](#) recently published in the peer-reviewed Environmental Science and Technology Letters, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances could be escaping landfills via gas at concentrations similar to — if not higher than — liquid leachate.

[“Landfill Gas: A Major Pathway for Neutral Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance \(PFAS\) Release”](#)

“Their study reports unexpectedly high levels of airborne PFAS at three landfills and demonstrates that vented gases and liquid by-products called leachates could transport similar amounts of these contaminants to the environment.”

I live 8 miles from the landfill and about 1/4 mile north of OSU. I have walked out my front door smelling landfill odor - infrequently- but still it is jarring, concerning and awful. I have mentioned it to fellow walkers in the morning.

The owners and managers of Coffin Butte have not been good stewards, and they have not made good partners.

Witness these headlines:

[Oregon warns Coffin Butte Landfill over methane emissions](#)

Statesman Journal

<https://www.statesmanjournal.com> › oregon › 2024/08/14

Aug 14, 2024 — **Oregon environmental regulators have issued a formal warning to Coffin Butte Landfill** for not complying with new requirements to reduce methane emissions.

[Oregon landfills use loophole to avoid methane monitoring](#)

Statesman Journal

<https://www.statesmanjournal.com> › science › 2025/03/06

Mar 6, 2025 — **Coffin Butte Landfill was among those the EPA inspected.** In 2022, the EPA found Coffin Butte was leaking methane at levels that exceed state ...

[Coffin Butte Landfill given citations after worker complaints](#)

Statesman Journal

<https://www.statesmanjournal.com> › oregon › 2024/04/16

Apr 16, 2024 — **Oregon OSHA has cited and fined Coffin Butte Landfill** following investigations into worker complaints. The company denies the allegations

[Oregon pauses Coffin Butte Landfill air quality permit process](#)

Statesman Journal

<https://www.statesmanjournal.com> › local › 2025/01/10

Jan 10, 2025 — In October 2023, the **Statesman Journal** reported an EPA inspection found the landfill was leaking **methane** at levels that exceed state and

[NPR for Oregonians](#)

<https://www.klcc.org> › environment › epa-inspection-u...

Jan 17, 2025 — An EPA inspection last summer found **dozens of methane leaks at the Coffin Butte landfill** in Benton County. The site accepts more than 1 million tons of garbage

YachatsNews.com

<https://lincolnchronicle.org> › benton-county-says-propo...

In October 2023, the Statesman Journal reported on an EPA investigation that found massive **methane** leaks at the **landfill**.

[Coffin Butte Landfill north of Corvallis under scrutiny](#)

Statesman Journal

<https://www.statesmanjournal.com> · Aug 8, 2024

Coffin Butte Landfill under scrutiny. Members of Oregon's Congressional delegation are asking the U.S. EPA to investigate Coffin Butte Landfill.

Benton County is now the receiver of PFAS in a very wet climate environment that promotes a great amount of leachate production - a part of which will be released in water and another part in air. Why here? In the future as more is known, to what extent will it lead to greater long term harm, liability and further diminishment of our precious vital natural resources upon which we all depend.

Thank you,

Susan Walenza
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