

**From:** [Mark Yeager](#)  
**To:** [REDICK Daniel](#); [Sam Imperati](#); [Benton County Talks Trash](#)  
**Subject:** Landfill Life Subcommittee  
**Date:** Sunday, November 13, 2022 8:43:31 AM

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As a member of the Landfill Capacity/Landfill Life subcommittee, I am concerned about where the group is headed, and the lack of time and information needed to fully explore this topic and its impact on the future of materials management in Benton County and the nearby region.

At the first subcommittee meeting on October 25th, the subcommittee was discussing the many variables and assumptions that impact the life of the landfill. In this context, the "life of the landfill" means how much longer can Coffin Butte continue to accept waste hauled to the site. During the discussion, the representative from Republic Services stated that Republic has "contractual obligations with dozens of parties across western Oregon to handle their hauling and disposal..." As stated, Republic Services, not Benton County, entered into these "dozens" of contracts to haul and dispose of waste from other parties in western Oregon. These are not contractual obligations that bind the residents of Benton County in any way.

Obviously, Republic is free to competitively bid on any and all contracts of their choosing. However, Republic's many new contracts have dramatically increased the amount of waste entering the landfill since 2017. If the already-approved disposal space in Cell 6 will not be made available by Republic to accommodate the increased trash load, Republic has a disposal space problem of its own making. Either Republic did not foresee this development, or maybe it was just assumed that a landfill expansion would be approved by the County.

Either way, because Benton County does not currently have a long-range Materials Management Plan, the County and its residents do not have adequate information available to explore the future of landfilling in Benton County, landfilling in other locations, or alternative materials management strategies to serve Benton County and the nearby region. Likewise, the timeline for finding more landfill space, as presented by Republic Services, does not allow for the development of future materials management strategies.

The 2021 Site Development Plan (SDP) for Coffin Butte Landfill, prepared for Republic by Geo-Logic Associates and submitted to the Oregon DEQ, estimates that the existing, permitted landfill cells have capacity to accept projected waste volumes through 2039 (18 years remaining landfill life without expansion). If Republic does not intend to follow their 2021 Site Development Plan, then that will certainly affect the life of the landfill, and the assumptions behind that intention should be examined carefully by the subcommittee.

Submitted by:

Mark Yeager