



Riverbend Landfill - 2 April 2012
Looking West to East

This one shows how wet the landfill is....how in APRIL water is still pooling around it in what we know are illegal "borrow" pits.



**Riverbend Landfill - 2 April 2012
Looking South to NE**



River lapping at the edges of Riverbend landfill, which is on prime EFU in the Willamette Valley.





There were taken by someone who lives above the dump. He took the first shot when he moved in, thinking how gorgeous his view was.



The second shot was taken last year. - not so gorgeous any more



There are alternatives: This is Waste Management's Arlington Landfill in Eastern Oregon. It has a 10,000 acre buffer around it with no crops, no forest land, no river.

Landfills Do Not Belong on High-Value Farmland

Riverbend landfill is a regional landfill located on prime farmland in Yamhill County. It will reach capacity in 2014. Instead of closing, the landfill's out-of-state owner, Waste Management, wants to expand, first with a 40-foot high barrier that will allow the landfill to collect an additional 1,000,000 tons of waste and remain open through 2016, and then with a 60-acre expansion onto prime farmland that will keep the landfill operating at least another 25 years.

Waste Management owns more than 700 adjacent acres of high-value farmland. Even though they claim only to want 60 more acres for an expanded site, they could potentially keep expanding onto as much land as they want, given the current laws of the state. Despite their claims to the contrary, large corporations have been known to change their minds when their profits keep going up. And that is why the law needs to be changed.

The Stop the Dump Coalition and Waste Not of Yamhill County have been fighting to prevent expansion for 5 years (and our predecessors for the 20 years before that) because the landfill is not environmentally sound, is not compatible with Yamhill County's increasingly tourist-oriented economy, destroys high-quality farmland, and wastes resources—wasting even the "resource" of waste itself.

Environment

Riverbend borders the floodway of the South Yamhill River. Although a "modern" landfill, the original three cells are not lined and, according to the original engineer of record, were not compacted to EPA/DEQ specifications. DEQ has documented VOCs leaking from the landfill, potentially threatening our ground water and the river. In addition, the landfill *stinks*. There is simply no better way to say it. Nothing Waste Management has done has reduced the smell, which wafts over Highway 18 (the busiest tourist road in the state), neighboring farms and businesses, and even enters McMinnville. Yet DEQ gives the dump a "pass" on odor, calling the landfill's failed efforts "best practices." Western Oregon is not the place for a landfill, as even Waste Management admits—especially while there is excess capacity in existing landfills elsewhere. As Wendy Wiles from DEQ said two years ago, "If we knew then what we know now, we would never have located the landfill there."

Farmland Cannot be Replaced

Destroying land as valuable for food production as the land surrounding Riverbend Landfill is by burying it under tens of millions of tons of trash, most of which comes from Metro and the Coast, makes no sense.

Additionally, Western Oregon is wet. The moisture content of the landfill in Yamhill County is so high (48%) that it should qualify as a bio-reactor landfill which has special characteristics that result in :

- Increased gas emissions
- Increased odors
- Physical instability of waste mass due to increased moisture and density
- Instability of liner systems
- Surface seeps
- Landfill fires

(<http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/municipal/landfill/bioreactors.htm>)

High value farmland contributes to the ongoing economy of a region. A landfill has a finite life span and can become an economic drain on future generations of tax-payers who will be left to pay the bill for all that can go wrong 50 years after closure. Agricultural use of the same farmland, on the other hand, will not wind up costing tax payers money in 50 years, but instead will continue to benefit the region in which the land is located.

Hazard

Like the rest of Western Oregon, Riverbend is located in the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Unlike the rest of state government, DEQ has not adopted a magnitude 9.0 earthquake standard for evaluating the

stability of work that it permits. DEQ is willing to permit the 40-foot high barrier Waste Management wants to build even though that wall has been engineered to only a magnitude 8.5 earthquake. To date, DEQ has rejected DOGAMI's request that it consider utilizing the M9.0 standard adopted by the rest of the state. DEQ has just issued tentative approval for the construction of a berm that is not engineered to meet the standard that is being met by other important structures in the state, per the recommendations of DOGAMI and OSSPAC (Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission.)

Energy

There is a landfill-gas-to-energy plant at Riverbend (paid for with a 50% grant from Oregon taxpayers), but generating energy is not a good reason to create a landfill. Landfill gas is dirty, and burning this gas to make energy is highly inefficient, and leaves all of the garbage right where it was—in a stinking mound!

Burning the waste itself is a more efficient energy generator. Systems such as Plasma Arc Technology, MSW autoclaves, contained composting/biogas facilities and other methods are being used around the world to create energy. In fact, Sweden does not generate enough of their own garbage to meet the needs for all of the waste-to-energy plants they have built. Whole towns are using nothing but fuel created from bio gas (http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/11/science/earth/11fossil.html?_r=1&hp)

Economy

Waste Management touts the landfill's 20 jobs, but its recycling centers in other states (eg, Spokane, WA) employ three times as many workers. Processing waste in ways that actually produces benefits--compost, energy, oil, reusables--also results in more good-paying jobs. To prepare the waste for effective energy generation requires pre-sorting--which offers excellent opportunities for reuse and recycling of culled materials. **According to the EPA, there are 10 jobs in the industries associated with material recycling, repurposing, and reusing for every one job in a landfill.**

Oregon's solid waste plan kicks these benefits a long way down the road. Adding landfill capacity will only delay attempts to meet our state's already weak goals.

Opportunity

Finally, landfills are cheap. We will not learn to reduce waste so long as we have the ability to throw excess goods "away" without paying for the environmental and economic harms that result. Approving additional landfill capacity in Oregon results in a "cash cow" give-away to out-of-state operators while leaving Oregon taxpayers with the task of cleaning up the soil, water, and air the landfill dirties.

Oregon's own statutes make it clear that landfills are a "last resort." Allowing a landfill to expand on environmentally fragile riverside land, in the floodway of the Yamhill River, in the wet part of the state, in a seismic hazard zone when there is excess capacity at other landfills should be illegal.

Conclusion

Given the ample landfill capacity that currently exists in the state and the need to move to other methods of reducing and processing solid waste, stop allowing landfills to be built or expanded on valuable high-value farmland. Harness the innovative and creative talent in the State to develop alternatives to the cheap and short-sighted practice of disposing of resources in landfills.

When available land for garbage is limited, we will make less garbage; we will create more jobs; and we will save valuable land for sustainable practices that will contribute to the agricultural economy that has made Oregon famous throughout the world.

For additional information about Riverbend Landfill, and the efforts to close it on schedule in 2014, please see our website: <http://www.stopthedumpcoalition.org/>



Waste Reduction, Disposal Alternatives, Composting, & More

Stop the Dump Coalition Website

<http://www.stothedumpcoalition.org/>

EPA paper about jobs and recycling

nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPURL.cgi?Dockey=10000MSS.txt

EPA information with general landfill criteria, including location of MSW landfills. Location restrictions rule out the location of the current Riverbend Landfill as a suitable landfill site

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/landfill.htm>

Economic Benefits of Recycling Industry

<http://www.epa.gov/wastes/conservation/localgov/benefits/>

Model for an enclosed composting facility in Cucamonga, CA

<http://www.ierca.org/>

Enclosed Composting Facility Delaware County, NY

<http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/audits/counties/2010/delaware.pdf>

Information on San Francisco's plan to get to Zero Waste

PBS SEGMENT _RECOLOGY

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/climate-change/jan-june13/recycling_01-25.html

DEQ's Report---37 years to reach goal for waste reduction

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/pubs/docs/sw/2050vision/MaterialsManagementinOregon.pdf>

OSSPAC (Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission)

http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/osspace/docs/Oregon_Resilience_Plan_draft_Executive_Summary.pdf

Website detailing the adoption of Plasma Arc technology in Iowa to replace expanding a landfill

<http://www.wastenotiowa.org/>

Alternative disposal system, Anaerobic Digestion, currently being implemented in Germany and San Jose and Monterey, CA

<http://www.zerowasteenergy.com/content/smartfarm>

Link to Oregon solid waste hierarchy and state MSW statutes

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/pubs/docs/sw/2050vision/BriefingPaperSWhierarchy.pdf>



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