



Ben Shumaker <ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

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## Old Toxic landfill in Stevenson

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**Mitch Patton** <nwtsrinc@gmail.com>

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To: Commissioners <commiss@co.skamania.wa.us>, City of Stevenson <citycouncil@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Kick <kick@co.skamania.wa.us>

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Dear Skamania Commissioners and Stevenson City Council Members,

I urge you to take the time to review the attached document. I am deeply troubled by the fact that Skamania County has failed to monitor—or has ever monitored—the leaching from the old landfill or the methane gases year after year for over 40-50 years. even knowing it has long exceeded its 30 year lifespan of the cap that was meant to seal it from leaching methane gases into our clean air and gathering rain water that will continue flushing contaminants off site through the groundwater. It is well-documented that landfill caps are only effective for about 30 years, at best.

At this time, I am requesting that everyone reconsider how Skamania County has been blatantly violating federal environmental laws for so long. To make matters worse, the County Prosecutor made a public statement in the local newspaper claiming that Skamania County is not obligated to monitor the old landfill because it ceased operation before modern environmental laws took effect.

However, after reviewing the attachment I received from the Environmental Justice Council today, see below attachment my fears have been confirmed: Skamania County is in clear violation of multiple environmental regulations. This situation is unacceptable.

I am calling on everyone to support holding Skamania County accountable for its blatant disregard for environmental protection at two old landfills, not just one but two old toxic landfills in skamania county going unmonitored for well over 40 years . It is time to address these violations and ensure that the county upholds its responsibilities to safeguard our environment for current and future generations.

At this point, I strongly recommend skamania county seek outside legal counsel and no longer rely on Adam Kick's misguided understanding of Washington State's environmental laws. I will not stop until Skamania County is held accountable for its blatant disregard for our environment over so many years.

I also hope there is a way to hold elected officials accountable for their knowledge of these two old landfills and their failure to address it, despite its known risks. It is deeply troubling to see such disregard from both county staff and elected officials. This issue cannot be ignored any longer. Any feedback would be greatly appreciated.

One last thing I now wonder, after reviewing the information below, is whether Prosecutor Adam Kick may have violated his oath to uphold all laws and could potentially be in violation of prosecutorial misconduct. His statement to the local paper a few years ago regarding the old landfill seemed to play down the true hazards and ignored the fact that the site has not been monitored for so many years, despite the cap exceeding its lifespan by over 20 years.

I feel that environmental laws are an area in which Adam Kick should be well-informed. At this point, it seems the clock has run out, and our county is now facing significant legal and environmental trouble.

**Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)** and the Clean Water Act (CWA) have criminal provisions and citizen suit provisions to remedy an environmental harm.

This statement is explaining that both the **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)** and the **Clean Water Act (CWA)** contain legal mechanisms to address environmental harm through two primary types of enforcement:

1. **Criminal Provisions:**

- These provisions allow the government to prosecute individuals or organizations for violations of environmental laws.
- For example, illegal dumping of hazardous waste or discharging pollutants into waterways without a permit could lead to criminal charges.
- Penalties may include fines, imprisonment, or both, depending on the severity of the violation.

2. **Citizen Suit Provisions:**

- These provisions empower private citizens or organizations to sue individuals, corporations, or government entities for violations of environmental laws.
- This means that if the government does not take action, citizens can step in to hold violators accountable or compel enforcement of environmental regulations.
- Citizen suits are a key tool for ensuring compliance and protecting the environment when government agencies fail to act.

Together, these provisions serve as tools to deter environmental harm, provide justice for violations, and ensure that laws like RCRA and CWA are effectively enforced to protect human health and the environment.

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"Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will  
turn."

- Harriet Beecher Stowe, from "Oldtown Folks"

Please add to public comment at the next  
BOCC meeting and the next stevenson city  
council meeting



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