

For Immediate Release, June 30, 2023

Despite the recent announcement from the Yakima Health District, the Caton Landfill does not expect that it will be closed as of July 1. Randy Caton said that the Landfill has filed an appeal of the decision of the Health District and is also asking for reconsideration of the decision. He said: "We have been working hard with the Health District and other agencies to satisfy their requests for updated documents and the Health District has already approved some of the new documents. This is a dispute over documents and there is absolutely no concern about any adverse impacts from the operation of the Landfill." Mr. Caton also said: "We were very surprised by the decision because we have been repeatedly asking the Health District if they needed more information and they did not respond with any requests."

Mr. Caton said that under State law, the Landfill can continue to operate if it files an appeal, and it filed its appeal yesterday. State law requires that the Health District grant an appeal hearing within 30 days. Mr. Caton said that, if necessary, the Landfill will also seek relief from the State Pollution Control Hearings Board and the courts. He said: "We are being treated unfairly by local agencies including the Health District. In letters we received just this week they raised issues they had never raised before and gave us no opportunity to respond with the facts."

The Caton Landfill is located in a remote part of Yakima County off of the Naches Wenas Road. The operating landfill, which also recycles metals and other materials, covers approximately 120 acres and is entirely within the Caton Family ownership of the surrounding 1700 acres. The Caton Landfill uses state of the art processes to inspect and manage all materials delivered to the Landfill. They experienced a fire in a limited area of the landfill in December, 2022 and it was fully extinguished. Mr. Caton said the fire was the result of faulty advice by regulatory agencies. The Landfill hired the foremost landfill fire experts in the world to help determine and resolve the cause of the fire. The Fire Consultant advised Caton Landfill that the Operating Manual (designed by the Regulatory Agencies as their source for Landfill operations) was the direct cause of the fires.

Mr Caton said, "It is interesting, if not suspicious, to note that the DTG landfill has been issued a shutdown notice by the Yakima Health District as of July 1st as well. The County is closing both of the private landfills in Yakima County just after they have increased their dump fees by nearly 10%. The Caton Landfill tipping fee for a cubic yard of concrete is \$12.00. The same cubic yard of concrete at the County's new rate costs \$85.50. That would be a 713% increase in dump fees!"

2.) What would you like the customers who use Caton's LPL to know?

The Caton Landfill has been in operation since 1997. While the Yakima County offices have denied our permit, we are filing for an appeal and expect to be able to continue operations as usual during the appeal process. It is worth noting that the biggest winner from the shutdown of the only two private landfills in Yakima County is Yakima County. Without the lower rates of our landfill, the County will charge substantially higher rates and reap the rewards of their actions. As a community we simply cannot allow this to happen. We ask that everyone who reads this simply send a quick email message to the Yakima County Board of County Commissioners and express their opinion. amanda.mckinney@co.yakima.wa.us kyle.curtis@co.yakima.wa.us ladon.linde@co.yakima.wa.us

3.) How, if at all, will this development affect operations at Caton's non-LPL operations?

Because Washington State Law outlines how a Waste Recycling Facility may remain open throughout the appeal of an operating permit denial, we expect no visible changes to our operations. We at the Caton LPL are confident that we will prevail on the merits and that the County and other Regulators also have substantial liability associated with their lack of oversight and experience in the Solid Waste Industry. While we hope to work with our regulatory agencies in a meaningful and productive dialogue, so far, we have not experienced that from them.

In response to Shawn Magee's statement regarding the permit denial that went out on June 30, 2023, we need to point out that there has never been any notice of environmental violations or infractions at the Caton Landfill.

For further information:
Randy Caton
Cell: (509)728-8928
randy@catonlandfill.com