

## LOCAL, STATE &amp; REGION

# Illegally dumped radioactive fracking waste will stay, state says

The Associated Press

SALEM — A state agency has chosen to leave millions of pounds of illegally dumped, radioactive fracking waste in an Eastern Oregon landfill.

The Oregon Department of Energy's decision on Wednesday comes just over a year after it issued a notice of violation to Chemical Waste Management, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported. The company operates Oregon's only hazardous waste landfill, outside the Columbia River town of Arlington. An investigation found CWM had dumped 1,284 tons of radioactive waste in the landfill over three years.

Oregon law prohibits the establishment of a radioactive waste disposal facility.

After the violation, CWM had to come up with a plan and offered to dig it up and ship it to another state, or to leave it and monitor the effects.



Deckhands on a Sandridge Energy oil rig change out a drill pipe in a fracking operation on the Oklahoma border in Harper County, Kansas.

Bo Rader/Wichita Eagle/TNS, file

The state Department of Energy said removing the waste "would pose a greater risk to landfill workers than leaving the waste in place."

CWM will be subject to more stringent water-quality monitoring, and the Department of Energy has directed the company to install a portal to scan shipments of waste for radioactivity.

In 2019, a tipster from North Dakota alerted Oregon regulators that the Oregon landfill

might have been accepting radioactive waste from a company disposing of solid waste from a project in the Bakken Formation — one of North America's largest contiguous oil and natural gas deposits.

An investigation found the company, Goodnight Midstream, contracted Oilfield Waste Logistics to dispose of the solid waste and it "misrepresented" to CWM what material it was sending to be dumped, the Department of

Energy's former assistant director for nuclear safety Ken Niles previously said.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, which permits the facility, fined CWM and Oilfield Waste Logistics \$60,000 and \$308,656, respectively.

"In the manifest that they provided to Chemical Waste Management Arlington, it basically said that this waste does fit within Oregon's regulations," Niles said. "Chemical Waste Management did not do their due diligence to ensure what they were being told by OWL was in fact accurate."

CWM spokesperson Jackie Lang said CWM "had a gap in our process" that the company has now addressed.

"Today, I can say with confidence that we are in full compliance and that our protections are better and stronger than ever," Lang said.

## Budget

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But the budget framework of almost \$28 billion from the tax-supported general fund and lottery proceeds will leave \$520 million of that federal aid unspent until the 2023-25 budget cycle, when tax collections are also projected to fall short of meeting current service levels.

The budget committee leaders also propose a record \$250 million allocation to the state emergency fund, given the continuing uncertainties about the coronavirus pandemic and wildfires. (The Legislature gave more money to the Emergency Board, which decides budget matters between sessions, but only after two special sessions in 2020.)

"Our framework addresses unprecedented challenges as we await further federal guidance with respect to the American Rescue Plan money designated for Oregon," said Sen. Betsy Johnson, a Democrat from Scappoose and a budget co-leader. "Our document is sufficiently flexible to respond during budget negotiations. However, it also prudently anticipates potential challenges

for the 2023-25 budget."

Counties and cities also will get share of federal aid under Biden's plan. Cities with populations of 50,000 and up, and all counties, will get their money from the U.S. Treasury. Smaller cities will get theirs through the state, based on population.

Unlike Brown's budget, which proposed tapping the state education reserve fund, the legislative framework would leave both the education and general reserve funds untouched. Lawmakers did draw \$400 million from the education reserve fund last year, cutting it in half.

The state budget spends more money than the tax-supported general fund and lottery proceeds. But most of that money is in the form of earmarked federal grants or other sources, such as fuel taxes.

### Shifting millions

The state's new two-year budget cycle starts July 1. Instead of field meetings, which the pandemic precludes, the budget committee will schedule virtual hearings soon on the framework.

"This is just the beginning of the process," House Republican

Leader Christine Drazan of Canby said in a statement. "We look forward to hearing from our communities and working with our colleagues to determine how we can provide ongoing support for recovery and continue the programs and services important to families and children."

Budget subcommittees have heard agency presentations but still have to do much of the detailed work on individual agencies. The first agency budget emerged from the full committee on March 19.

Brown's budget proposes a shift of \$280 million into programs intended to overcome

the effects of discrimination against Oregon's racial and ethnic minorities.

The budget co-leaders said they are continuing discussions with lawmakers of color — who now hold 12 of the 90 House and Senate seats — and others about how to incorporate those changes into the budget.

"It's important to protect services that Oregonians depend on, and to make investments to overcome disparities caused by systemic racism," Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, a Democrat from Beaverton and a budget co-leader, said.

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## TODAY

It's Friday, March 26, the 85th day of 2021. There are 280 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

In **1982**, groundbreaking ceremonies took place in Washington, D.C., for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

In **1812**, an earthquake devastated Caracas, Venezuela, causing an estimated 26,000 deaths, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In **1827**, composer Ludwig van Beethoven died in Vienna.

In **1874**, poet Robert Frost was born in San Francisco.

In **1892**, poet Walt Whitman died in Camden, New Jersey.

In **1917**, the Seattle Metropolitans became the first U.S. team to win the Stanley Cup as they defeated the Montreal Canadiens in Game 4 of the finals by a score of 9-1.

In **1945**, during World War II, Iwo Jima was fully secured by U.S. forces following a final, desperate attack by Japanese soldiers.

In **1962**, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Baker v. Carr, gave federal courts the power to order reapportionment of states' legislative districts.

In **1964**, the musical play "Funny Girl," starring Barbra Streisand as Fanny Brice, opened on Broadway.

In **1979**, a peace treaty was signed by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and witnessed by President Jimmy Carter at the White House.

In **1992**, a judge in Indianapolis sentenced former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson to six years in prison for raping a Miss Black America contestant. Tyson ended up serving three years.

In **1997**, the bodies of 39 members of the Heaven's Gate techno-religious cult who committed suicide were found inside a rented mansion in Rancho Santa Fe, California.

In **2010**, the U.S. and Russia sealed the first major nuclear weapons treaty in nearly two decades, agreeing to slash the former Cold War rivals' warhead arsenals by nearly one-third.

**Ten years ago:** Former Democratic vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, the first female major party nominee for the office, died in Boston at 75.

**Five years ago:** Bernie Sanders scored wins over Hillary Clinton

in the Washington state, Alaska and Hawaii Democratic caucuses. Author Jim Harrison ("Legends of the Fall") died in Patagonia, Arizona, at 78.

**One year ago:** Federal officials said two men who had been on a coronavirus-stricken cruise ship stalled for days off the California coast had died; officials confirmed that fewer than half the ship's 2,400 passengers were tested for the virus. More than 100 people who were on the Grand Princess were found to be infected with the coronavirus; at least eight died. The government reported a record-high number of new unemployment claims — nearly 3.3 million — amid an economic shutdown caused by the coronavirus. The U.S. surpassed official Chinese government numbers to become the country with the most reported coronavirus infections, more than 85,000.

**Today's Birthdays:** Retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is 91. Actor Alan Arkin is 87. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is 86. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is 81. Actor James Caan is 81. Author Erica Jong is 79. Journalist Bob Woodward is 78. Singer Diana Ross is 77. Actor Johnny Crawford is 75. Rock singer Steven Tyler (Aerosmith) is 73. Singer and TV personality Vicki Lawrence is 72. Actor Ernest Thomas is 72. Comedian Martin Short is 71. Country singer Ronnie McDowell is 71. Movie composer Alan Silvestri is 71. Rock musician Monte Yoho is 69. Former Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao is 68. Radio talk show host Curtis Sliwa is 67. TV personality Leeza Gibbons is 64. Actor Elia English is 62. Actor Jennifer Grey is 61. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Marcus Allen is 61. Actor Billy Warlock is 60. Actor Eric Allan Kramer is 59. Basketball and College Basketball Hall of Famer John Stockton is 59. Actor Michael Imperioli is 55. Rock musician James Iha is 53. Country singer Kenny Chesney is 53. Movie director Martin McDonagh is 51. Actor Leslie Mann is 49. Actor T.R. Knight is 48. Rapper Juvenile is 46. Actor Amy Smart is 45. Actor Bianca Kajlich is 44. Moderator Margaret Brennan is 41. Actor Sterling Sulieman is 37. Actor Keira Knightley is 36. Rapper J-Kwon is 35.

— The Associated Press

## Central Oregon's Best Kept Secret



**CREATIVE CROPS**  
REC

**265 SE Scott St. in Bend!**  
**541-323-9338**

WEEKLY-SPECIALS

Munchie Monday - 10% OFF Edibles  
 Topical & Tincture Tuesday - 10% OFF  
 Why Not Wednesday - 10% OFF Cartridges  
 Thank You Thursday - 15% OFF Flower  
 Fri-YAY - 10% OFF Pre-Rolls  
 Shatterday - 10% OFF Concentrates

DAILY SPECIALS

15% off for Veterans  
 5% off for The Good Life Crowd (60+)  
 Drive-up/Curbside Window available for  
 Online Orders @ [Dutchie.com](http://Dutchie.com) or [Weedmaps.com](http://Weedmaps.com)  
 Give the Gift of Cannabis  
 @ [kindregards.com](http://kindregards.com)



NEW 12-BED HOSPICE HOUSE COMING THIS FALL!

## THE IMPACT OF GENEROUS HEARTS

### Our community is meeting the Challenge!

In January, Partners In Care was offered a Challenge Grant from the Tykeson Family Foundation in support of **A New Home for Hospice** capital campaign. They will match all contributions dollar-for-dollar up to \$1 million if pledged or given by June 30. Thanks to over 100 gifts in 100 days, we are over halfway to our goal!

Giving is easy and greatly appreciated.

- ♥ Double the number of patient suites.
- ♥ Double the amenities for family members.
- ♥ Double the impact of your gift!

Help us help those who deserve the best possible end-of-life care at our beautiful new Hospice House. Coming this Fall in Bend and serving all Central Oregonians.

Watch our video and make a secure online gift at [Partnersbend.org/campaign](http://Partnersbend.org/campaign) or mail your contribution to Partners In Care, Hospice House Campaign, 2075 NE Wyatt Ct, Bend, OR 97701.

*"My siblings and I had a very positive experience with hospice care when our parents were at the end of their lives. We also know how valuable a Hospice House is as a support to both families and medical providers in the care of loved ones."*

- Amy Tykeson  
Foundation Trustee  
and former Bend resident



**Partners In Care**