

From: Rex Burkholder
To: letters@portlandtribune.com
Date: 6/6/03 9:53AM
Subject: Metro Councilor Rex Burkholder response (Fresh questions seep into dormant landfill issue, May 30.)

June 5, 2003

St. Johns landfill is carefully monitored, protected

St. Johns resident Ray Piltz is certainly right in his recollection that there were all types of waste – some of it extremely hazardous by today's standards –disposed in the St. Johns landfill during its operative years. (Fresh questions seep into dormant landfill issue, May 30.)

The good news is that Metro has invested over \$36 million to implement numerous environmental protection measures on the 238-acre landfill. These protection measures include: covering the garbage with a thick layer of compacted earth and silt, as well as a thick plastic cap to keep rainwater from leaching pollutants into the ground water; collecting landfill gas and properly burning it or recovering it for energy; repairing the perimeter earth dike in several vulnerable places in order to keep buried waste out of surface waters; and regularly monitoring groundwater quality and landfill gas emissions.

Our role of caretaker of this landfill continues. As part of the landfill closure permit process required by DEQ, Metro will be conducting a risk assessment and feasibility study to further identify environmental impacts of the landfill and to develop any necessary remedial actions. Information about this process will be available both through DEQ and Metro.

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