

AIR CP_104046545_CP_20160205_Investigation_1311989_
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Investigation Report

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Customer: Generic Incident Principal
Customer Number: CN602295370

Regulated Entity Name: GENERIC INCIDENT ZIP CODE 77584

Regulated Entity Number: RN104046545

Investigation # 1311989	Incident Numbers 226854
Investigator: ALEJANDRA DE LOS SANTOS	Site Classification
Conducted: 02/05/2016 -- 02/05/2016	No Industry Code Assigned
Program(s): AIR QUALITY NON PERMITTED	
Investigation Type: Compliance Investigation	Location:
Additional ID(s):	
Address: ,	Local Unit: REGION 12 - HOUSTON
	Activity Type(s): AIRCOMPL - AIR CMPL - AIR COMPLAINT INV

Principal(s):

Role	Name
RESPONDENT	GENERIC INCIDENT PRINCIPAL

Contact(s):

Role	Title	Name	Phone
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Other Staff Member(s):

Role	Name
Investigator	JOHN BREGGER
Supervisor	CORBETT BRINLY
QA Reviewer	ILANA HAIRSTON
Investigator	ILANA HAIRSTON

Associated Check List

<u>Checklist Name</u>	<u>Unit Name</u>
AIR COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION	Sitewide

Investigation Comments:

INTRODUCTION

Between January 22 and 29, 2016, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Houston Regional Office, received 26 odor complaints by phone and e-mail, including 6 from anonymous complainants. These 26 odor complaints were assigned to TCEQ incident #226854.

The complainants alleged that an odor of an unpleasant nature has been occurring in the area. The TCEQ has been receiving recent complaints regarding odor in this area since August 2015, and the duration and frequency has varied. For incident #226854, the majority of the complainants alleged the odors came from Akzo Nobel Surface Chemistry (Akzo) located at 15200 Almeda Rd, Houston, Texas, and Blue Ridge Landfill (BRL) located at 2200 FM 521, Fresno, Texas.

The ranges of meteorological conditions over the 4 different days of complaint incidents are described below. All data was taken from the Weather Underground, Shadow Creek Ranch station (KTXPEARL23). The temperatures ranged from 46 °F to 56 °F, cloud cover was clear, wind speed varied from 2 to 6 miles per hour (mph), and winds coming from the southwest and northwest prevailed.

All complainants were contacted via telephone and e-mail by Ms. Alejandra De Los Santos on February 1, 2016 between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM. General information relating to these complaints is listed below.

The investigator asked the complainants for a detailed description of the odor. The alleged odor was described in a variety of ways such as putrid, rotting garbage, trash, sewage, chemical-like, ammonia, stinky, sulfurous and rotten eggs. The odor descriptions varied between complainants, some of which stated that it was or was not a particular odor. For example, a complainant stated that the odor smelled like urine on January 23, 2016 at 8:00 AM, while another complainant stated that the odor smelled like petroleum on January 23, 2016 at 12:05 AM. Some complainants stated that the odors were much stronger near Blue Ridge Landfill.

Several complainants expressed concerns about the odor possibly being toxic to their health and alleged health effects such as headaches, nausea, and nose and throat pain. In addition to the health effects, some complainants alleged discomfort for not being able to go or stay outside on their property and some mentioned that the odor remained inside the residences after it had dissipated outside.

Investigation Narrative

On February 5, 2016, investigators, Ms. Alejandra De Los Santos, Ms. Ilana Hairston and Mr. John Bregger, arrived in the vicinity of the complaint location on Almeda Road at 7:43 AM. The investigators drove north on Almeda Road to survey the area next to BRL (See Attachment 1 - Survey Route Map). While driving, the investigators noted an odor, which was similar to garbage and crude oil.

At 7:57 AM, the investigators parked along Almeda Road approximately 1.2 miles south of the intersection of Almeda Road and Shadow Creek Parkway (Attachment 1 - Location A). The surrounding land use in this area is mainly residential, some industrial, and is predominantly flat terrain with trees and houses along Almeda Road. This location is due east of BRL.

At 7:58 AM, the investigators began recording the odor observations utilizing the Investigator's Odor Intensity Time Log (See Attachment 2 - Investigators' Odor Logs). The temperature during the odor survey was 47 °F, cloud cover was clear, wind speed of 2 miles per hour (mph), and winds coming from the east south east. Data was taken from the Weather Underground, Shadow Creek Ranch station (Station ID: KTXPEARL23). The odor again smelled like crude oil and garbage/trash. The intensity of the odor was very strong during the first minutes of the odor survey, but the intensity decayed rapidly within minutes until the investigators were no longer able to detect any odors. The odor was determined to be offensive according to the TCEQ Frequency, Intensity, Duration, and Offensiveness (FIDO) protocol.

At 8:09 AM, the investigators drove approximately 3 miles south of the previous location and continued the odor survey (Attachment 1 - Location B). At this time, the odor intensity varied from moderate to very light. The smell of crude oil predominated at the time. By 8:19 AM, the odor intensity was very light.

At 8:27 AM, the investigators drove south of the intersection of Almeda Road and West Broadway Street (Attachment 1 - Location C). The investigators were unable to detect an odor at this location.

At 8:35 AM, the investigators then drove along Kentucky Road (Attachment 1 - Location D) and Nail Road (Attachment 1 - Location E), south of BRL, but were unable to detect an odor.

Around 8:45 AM, the investigators began driving throughout the Shadow Creek Ranch neighborhood stopping at Green Thicket Drive (Attachment 1 - Location F), Leafwood Lane (Attachment 1 - Location G), Longlake Drive

(Attachment 1 - Location H), Mountain Sage Drive (Attachment 1 - Location I), Morgan Bay Drive (Attachment 1 - Location J) and Sorrel Ridge Court (Attachment 1 - Location K). The investigators were unable to detect an odor at any of these locations.

Based on this investigation, the actual source of the alleged odors was not confirmed. The investigation concluded at 10:10 AM.

Facility Authorization Narrative

As the actual source of the alleged odors was not confirmed, a facility authorization was not evaluated during this investigation.

Exit Interview

An exit interview form was not completed since there were no alleged violations, additional issues, or records requested.

GENERAL FACILITY AND PROCESS INFORMATION

Process Description

The actual source of the alleged odor was not confirmed during this investigation.

BACKGROUND

Agreed Orders, Court Orders, and Other Compliance Agreements

NA

Prior Enforcement Issues

NA

Complaints

NA

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Conclusions, Recommendations, and Current Enforcement Actions

Based on this investigation, no violations are being alleged. The Frequency, Intensity, Duration and Offensiveness (FIDO) chart categorizes the landfill garbage/waste odor as offensive. In order to confirm a nuisance, an offensive odor has to last 4 hours with a very strong (VS) intensity as a single occurrence. Since the odor did not have a VS intensity and did not last 4 hours, the single occurrence documented during this investigation does not constitute a nuisance based on the TCEQ FIDO protocol.

Additional Issues

No additional issues were noted during this investigation.

REPORT ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Survey Route Map
- 2. Investigators' Odor Logs
- 3. TCEQ Odor Investigation Checklist

No Violations Associated to this Investigation

Signed



Environmental Investigator

Date 4/28/16

Signed



Supervisor

Date 4-28-2016

Attachments: (in order of final report submittal)

- Enforcement Action Request (EAR)
- Letter to Facility (specify type) : _____
- Investigation Report
- Sample Analysis Results
- Manifests
- Notice of Registration

- 1 Maps, Plans, Sketches
- Photographs
- Correspondence from the facility
- Other (specify) :
- 2: Investigators' Odor logs
- 3: TCEQ Odor Investigation Checklist.

Attachment 1:

Survey Route Map

Pearland, Texas

RN 104-046-545

CN 602-295-370

Date: February 5, 2016

Odor Survey Route Map

Weather

Conditions:	Clear	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Overcast	Rain			
Wind Speed:	0 to 6 mph		Wind From: ESE	NW	NNW	N	NNE	NE
Temperature:	33 °F			WNW				ENE
Humidity:	56% RH			W		▲		E
				WSW				ESE
				SW	SSW	S	SSE	SE

► Diagram



Attachment 2:

Investigators' Odor Logs

Pearland, Texas

RN 104-046-545

CN 602-295-370

Date: February 5, 2016

Investigator's Odor Intensity Time Log

Date of Investigation: February 5, 2016 Start Time _____
 Name and Address of Alleged Source: ~ 1.5 miles SW of junction of Alameda Rd & 2234
 Investigator's Name: Print: John Buggen Sign: John Buggen

Clear skies
 calm winds
 34°F

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
1 min	S
2	L
3	M
4	-
5	S
6	VL
7	L
8	VL
9	-
10	-
11	-
12	-
13	-
14	-
15	-
16	-
17	-
18	VL
19	VL
20	VL
21	-
22	-
23	-
24	-
25	-
26	VL
27	-
28	-
29	-
30	-

7:57 a.m.

B: 2:07

8:09

8:19

~ 1.5 miles

~ 1.4 miles

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
31 min	-
32	-
33	-
34	-
35	-
36	VL
37	-
38	-
39	-
40	-
41	-
42	-
43	-
44	-
45	-
46	-
47	-
48	-
49	-
50	-
51	-
52	-
53	-
54	-
55	-
56	-
57	-
58	-
59	-
60	-

Just SW of
 521st Broadway
 intv

Investigation Type: Camp
 Air Account NO: 104046545
 Attachment: 2
 Page 1 of 5

Offensiveness: Highly _____ Offensive Unpleasant _____ Not Unpleasant _____
 Dominant Odor Intensity For:

	VS	S	M	L	VL	No Odor
1 Min		X				
10 Min					X	
1 Hour						X

Blank

Investigation Type: Camp

Air Account NO: 10410 46545

Attachment: 2

Page 2 of 5

Investigator's Odor Intensity Time Log

Date of Investigation: 2/5/16 Start Time 7:58 AM

Name and Address of Alleged Source: _____

Investigator's Name: Print: Alejandra De los Santos Sign: [Signature]

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
1 min	VS
2	VL
3	VL
4	VS
5	VL
6	S
7	L
8	VL
9	VL
10	VL
11	—
12	—
13	—
14	—
15	VL
16	VL
17	VL
18	—
19	VL
20	—
21	—
22	—
23	VL
24	—
25	—
26	—
27	—
28	—
29	—
30	VL

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
31 min	—
32	VL
33	
34	
35	
36	
37	
38	
39	
40	
41	
42	
43	
44	
45	
46	
47	
48	
49	
50	
51	
52	
53	
54	
55	
56	
57	
58	
59	
60	

Wind 0 km/h
Facing SW
T 33°

7:58
1.2 mile South of Alameda Rd and Shadow Brook intersection

1.5 m South →

8:20 →
1.6 m South

8:27 →
roadway Alameda

Investigation Type: camp
Air Account NO: 104046545
Attachment: 2
Page 3 of 5

Offensiveness: Highly _____ Offensive Unpleasant _____ Not Unpleasant _____
Dominant Odor Intensity For:

	VS	S	M	L	VL	No Odor
1 Min	X					
10 Min					X	
1 Hour						X

Blank

Investigation Type: Camp

Alt Account NO: 104096545

Attachment: 2

Page 4 of 5

Investigator's Odor Intensity Time Log

Date of Investigation: 2/5/2010 Start Time 7:59 AM
 Name and Address of Alleged Source:
 Investigator's Name: Print: Iana Hairston Sign: [Signature]

South of
Intersection
2234
1.2 mile
South of
Intersection

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
1 min	SSS
2	SSS
3	MSS
4	MSS
5	MSS
6	M
7	L
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	L
16	L
17	L
18	L
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	L
25	
26	L
27	
28	
29	
30	

mixture
of oil
& garbage

Green
micket
leaves

1.5 mile
South

1.1 mile
South

[Signature]
521

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
31 min	—
32	—
33	—
34	—
35	—
36	VL
37	—
38	—
39	—
40	—
41	—
42	—
43	—
44	—
45	—
46	—
47	—
48	—
49	—
50	—
51	—
52	—
53	—
54	—
55	—
56	—
57	—
58	—
59	—
60	—

Broadway
+
521

Kentucky Street
(next to
Landfill)

Mountain
Sage
Frost creek

Mountain
Lake Drive

Morgan Bay
Drive
MORNING

End 10:09
AM

Investigation Type: Camp
 Air Account NO: 104046545
 Attachment: 2 of 5
 Page 5 of 5

Offensiveness: Highly _____ Offensive Unpleasant _____ Not Unpleasant _____
 Dominant Odor Intensity For:

	VS	S	M	L	VL	No Odor
1 Min		X				
10 Min		X				
1 Hour						X

Attachment 3:

TCEQ Odor Investigation Checklist

Pearland, Texas

RN 104-046-545

CN 602-295-370

Date: February 5, 2016

TCEQ- ODOR INVESTIGATION CHECKLIST

Investigators Name: Alejandra De Los Santos

Investigation Date: February 5, 2015

SITE INFORMATION

Regulated Entity: _____

Address/Location: Alameda Road and Shadow Creek Ranch community

Regulated Entity No.: _____

HEALTH EFFECTS

INVESTIGATOR (During Investigation):

- Nausea Headache Irritation: (Skin Eyes Nose Throat)
 Dizziness Breathing Difficulty
 Other _____

COMMENTS: No health effects

COMPLAINANT (historical):

- Nausea Headache Irritation: (Skin Eyes Nose Throat)
 Dizziness Breathing Difficulty
 Other _____

COMMENTS:

Investigation Type: Comp
Air Account NO: 104046545
Attachment: 3
Page 1 of 2

NUISANCE ODORS

Odor Detected: Yes No (if no, skip to Narrative)

ODOR OFFENSIVENESS:

Highly Offensive Offensive Unpleasant Not unpleasant

TYPE/DESCRIPTION OF ODOR:

At first it smelled like garbage and a couple of minutes later it had an oily-chemical odor

ODOR INTENSITY

Dominant Odor Intensity For:

	Very Strong	Strong	Medium	Light	Very Light	N/A
1 Min.		X				
10 Min.					X	
1 Hr.						X

ODOR FREQUENCY:

Single Event	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Quarterly
	X			

NARRATIVE

Complainant Odor Log given to complainant: YES NO

Complainant Odor Log attached: YES NO

COMPLAINANT COMMENTS:

INVESTIGATOR COMMENTS:

Investigation Type: Comp
Air Account NO: 104046545
Attachment: 3
Page 2 of 2