

AIR CP_104046545_CP_20160408_INVESTIGATION_1324548_
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 # 1324548

Incident Numbers

231161

231198

Investigator: REGINA RHODA

Site Classification

Conducted: 04/08/2016 -- 04/08/2016

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

Other Staff Member(s):

Role

Name

Investigator

MARGARET DICKSON

Supervisor

LETASHA MILLER

QA Reviewer

LETASHA MILLER

Associated Check List

Checklist Name

AIR COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

Unit Name

site wide

Investigation Comments:

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

On April 8, 2016, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) received 32 complaints via email assigned to incident numbers 231198 and 231161 from the Shadow Creek Ranch subdivision. The complainants alleged bad smells of chemicals and trash in the early morning hours between 5:00 am and 8:00 am. The complainants alleged the odors are detected daily, and are more prominent when there is no or a light wind from

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the west. A complainant alleged experiencing a headache from the odor, and an inability to go outdoors due to the unpleasant smells. The meteorological conditions during the incident of Friday April 8, 2016 were calm winds and 61 degrees Fahrenheit (F) at 6:52 am.

Some complainants were contacted by phone on April 12, 2016. The complainant stated that for about 3 years an occasional, light garbage smell was noted. The complainant further stated that approximately 6 months ago, the smell became regularly present and much stronger. They stated that the odors were worse when the wind was from the west (the direction of the landfill) and when the wind was light or calm in the very early hours of the morning such as 6:00 am.

Investigation Narrative

On April 8, 2016, TCEQ investigators Ms. Regina Rhoda and Ms. Margaret Dickson conducted an area survey for odors (See Attachment 1, Survey Route Map). The investigators traveled west on McHard Road from State Highway 288. At the intersection of McHard and FM 521, at 6:05 a.m., there was a very light sweet chemical smell. This was south of the fence line of Akzo Nobel. Continuing west on McHard, there was a very light burning smell that lasted very briefly. The investigators turned around at 8001 McHard Road to head east on McHard and south on Trinity Bay Drive into the Shadow Creek Ranch development. The area along Trinity Bay Drive is entirely residential. Near this intersection, next to an area of undeveloped land, there was a very light garbage smell. At 6:36 am, the investigators stopped at the intersection of Cambridge Bay Drive and Pebble Bay Bridge and noted a light to moderate level, offensive garbage smell mixed with a chemical smell. There was also a light skunk smell.

The investigators then traveled south on FM 521. To the west of this road, is the Blue Ridge Landfill. At 6:44 am there was a strong garbage smell. The meteorological conditions at this location were calm winds and 61.1 degrees F at 6:52 am as measure on the Kestrel portable weather monitor, model 4500. This smell quickly disapated but reappeared as the investigators arrived at the intersection of Field Hollow Drive and Timber Ridge Drive at 7:05 am. This persisted as a strong, offensive smell until 7:17 am. The smell was similar to standing next to a garbage dumpster. The odor was categorized as "offensive" based on TCEQ's Frequency, Intensity, Duration, and Offensiveness (FIDO) Chart. The odor was strong at first but diminished in intensity with time.

The investigators traveled northward through the community from Broadway using a random and circuitous route to return to the intersection of Cambridge Bay Drive and Pebble Bay Bridge at 7:28 am. The skunk smell was still there (52 minutes later) but no more garbage smell. The investigators proceeded to Catamaran Cove at 7:29 am where there was a strong sweet chemical smell very briefly.

The investigators returned to the location on FM 521 where a garbage smell had previously been detected. At this time, 7:49 am, there was a moderate to strong flowery smell, like the deodorant used in the landfill. The weather conditions were again measured with the Kestrel portable weather monitor, model 4500, as 62 degrees F and winds from the east-northeast at 2 miles per hour (mph). Further south, at the intersection of FM 521 and Broadway Street, there was a light to moderate garbage odor detected at 7:59 am. (see Attachment 1, Survey Route Map) The investigators continued to retrace the route through the community, noting that areas where odors were previously present had dissipated. The area survey was concluded at 9:30 am.

Based on the TCEQ's Odor Complaint Investigation Procedures and application of the FIDO Chart, an offensive odor with a strong intensity would have to be present as a single occurrence for 12 hours to constitute a nuisance. Although the investigators confirmed an odor, a nuisance condition and source of the odors could not be confirmed at the time.

Exit Interview

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

In addition, the complainants were contacted by email with the results of the investigation on May 2, 2016 at 9:45 am.

GENERAL FACILITY AND PROCESS INFORMATION

Process Description

GENERIC INCIDENT ZIP CODE 77584 - PEARLAND

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The area of Zip Code 77584 encompasses residences, businesses and some industrial facilities.

BACKGROUND

Agreed Orders, Court Orders, and Other Compliance Agreements

NA

Prior Enforcement Issues

NA

Complaints

Based on a review of CCEDS during the past five years, hundreds of odor complaints have been received relating to this area and other TCEQ nuisance odor investigations are being conducted concurrently by the Region 12 Office.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Conclusions, Recommendations, and Current Enforcement Actions

Based on this investigation, no violations are being alleged.

Additional Issues

Based on the TCEQ's Odor Complaint Investigation Procedures and application of the FIDO Chart, an "offensive" odor with an intensity of "strong" would have to be present on a daily basis continuously for at least 12 hours to constitute a nuisance. Although the investigators confirmed an odor, a nuisance condition and source of odor could not be confirmed at the time. No violations or areas of concern were noted during this investigation.

REPORT ATTACHMENTS

1. Area Map and Survey Route Map

No Violations Associated to this Investigation

Signed

Regina Rhoda
Environmental Investigator

Date

4/29/2016

Signed

Leticia Miller
Supervisor

Date

5/2/16

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

☐ Maps, Plans, Sketches

☐ Photographs

☐ Correspondence from the facility

☒ Other (specify) :

See list of Report
Attachments

Attachment 1
Area Map and Survey Route Map
FM 521 and Shadow Creek Ranch Subdivision
Pearland, TX
RN 104046545
April 8, 2016
Total Number Pages 2

Area Map
RN 104046545
April 8, 2016
Pearland, TX 77584 (Shadow Creek Ranch Subdivision)



1. 6:36 a.m. Cambridge Bay Drive and Pebble Bay Bridge
2. 6:44 a.m. south bound on FM 521
3. 6:52 a.m. west side of FM 521 near railroad tracks
4. 7:05 a.m. Field Hollow Drive and Timber Ridge Drive

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Odor Survey Route Map

Weather: FM 521, Pearland, TX 4/8/2016 (before sunrise)

Conditions:	Clear	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Overcast			Rain	
Wind Speed:	0		Wind From:	NW	NNW	N	NNE	NE
Temperature:	61.1 °F			WNW			ENE	
Humidity:	____% RH			W	▲			E
				WSW			ESE	
				SW	SSW	S	SSE	SE

► Diagram



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