

AIR CP_104046545_CP_20160317_Investigation_1321902
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 # 1321902

Incident Numbers

228858

Investigator: CESAR BAUTISTA

Site Classification

Conducted: 03/17/2016 -- 03/17/2016

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

Supervisor

MICHAEL HUTTO

QA Reviewer

MICHAEL HUTTO

Associated Check List

Checklist Name

AIR COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

Unit Name

Subdivisions

Investigation Comments:

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Eight odor complaints (Incident # 228858), from seven complainants, were received by phone or email for the period of March 4, 2016 through March 16, 2016. The complainants characterized the odors as chemical in nature, a combination of gas and trash, something burning, gaseous smell, sewer/hydrocarbon smell, and rotten eggs smell. All the complainants alleged health effects on them such as nausea, coughing, watery eyes, respiratory problem, burning throat, and headache. For the complaint days from March 4 – 11, 2016, the temperatures, wind speeds, and wind directions ranged from 64.0°F - 71.1°F, 4.6 - 10.4 miles per hour, and out of the southwest (SW)

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to south southeast (SSE), respectively. For the complaint days of March 14, 2016 and March 16, 2016, the temperatures were 66.9°F and 71.1°F, respectively. The wind direction and wind speed were calm on both days. The meteorological information was retrieved from the Weather Underground website. The complainants were contacted in the morning of March 15, 2016 prior to conducting the onsite investigation.

Investigation Narrative

The investigator arrived at the entrance of Republic Services Blue Ridge Landfill (Blue Ridge Landfill) close to the intersection of FM 518 (W. Broadway St.) & FM 521 at 8:05 PM on March 17, 2016 and met Ms. Laurie Rodriguez, Pretreatment Coordinator, for the City of Pearland. At 8:10 PM, the investigator and Ms. Rodriguez drove separately to a complainant's house at the Shadow Creek Ranch Subdivision in Pearland, Texas. While in route to the house, the investigator smelled a strong burning odor along FM 518 at about 8:15 PM. This burning odor remained part of the way on Windward Bay Drive, the street where the investigator and Ms. Rodriguez turned left into the subdivision. The investigator could not identify what the burning material was. After talking with the complainant, the investigator and Ms. Rodriguez left the place around 9:20 PM and visited the areas in the subdivision where the rest of the complainants, except one, reside. This other complainant resides in another residential neighborhood across FM 518. The investigator did not detect any odor in other areas of the subdivision where the other complainants reside. However, while in route to the Water Treatment Plant, operated by the City of Pearland, located close to the intersection of Shadow Creek Ranch Parkway, a moderate smell of sewer was detected in the subdivision area close to where a "wastewater lift station" operated by the City of Pearland, is located. At the Water Treatment Plant, the investigator detected a light odor of sewer and mercaptan at 9:45 pm. From the Water Treatment Plant, the investigator and Ms. Rodriguez drove to the lift station where the investigator detected a strong odor of sewer at 10:10 pm. While in route to the Blue Ridge Landfill and the Mercaptan Station on FM 521, the investigator and Ms. Rodriguez stopped by at the intersection of FM 518 and Biscayne Bay Drive at 10:25 PM. The investigator detected a burning smell like the one detected at 8:15 PM but lighter. However, when the investigator and Ms. Rodriguez stopped by at the next street, Windward Bay Drive, the same street where the investigator and Ms. Rodriguez turned left into the subdivision at 8:15 PM, no burning smell was detected. Additionally, no odor was detected in the corner of FM 518 and FM 521 at 10:35 PM. Afterwards, the investigator and Ms. Rodriguez drove to the Mercaptan Station, located in front of the Blue Ridge Landfill on FM 521. No odor was detected at 10:40 PM in this location. The surrounding land use and terrain is residential and flat. During the investigation, the temperatures, wind speeds, and wind directions ranged from 73°F - 75°F, 4.6 - 5.8 miles per hour, and out of the southeast (SE) - south, southeast (SSE), respectively. The investigator left the investigation site at 10:45 PM.

Facility Authorization Narrative

N/A.

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 March 31, 2016.

GENERAL FACILITY AND PROCESS INFORMATION

Process description

There was no alleged source.

BACKGROUND

Agreed Orders, Court Orders, and Other Compliance Agreements

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/RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions, Recommendations, and Current Enforcement Actions:

Based on the TCEQ's Odor Complaint Investigation Procedures and application of the FIDO Chart, a "highly-offensive" odor with an intensity of "light" would have to be present on a monthly basis continuously for at least 4 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
Area Map

No Violations Associated to this Investigation

Signed 
Environmental Investigator

Date 4/29/16

Signed 
Supervisor

Date 4/29/16

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

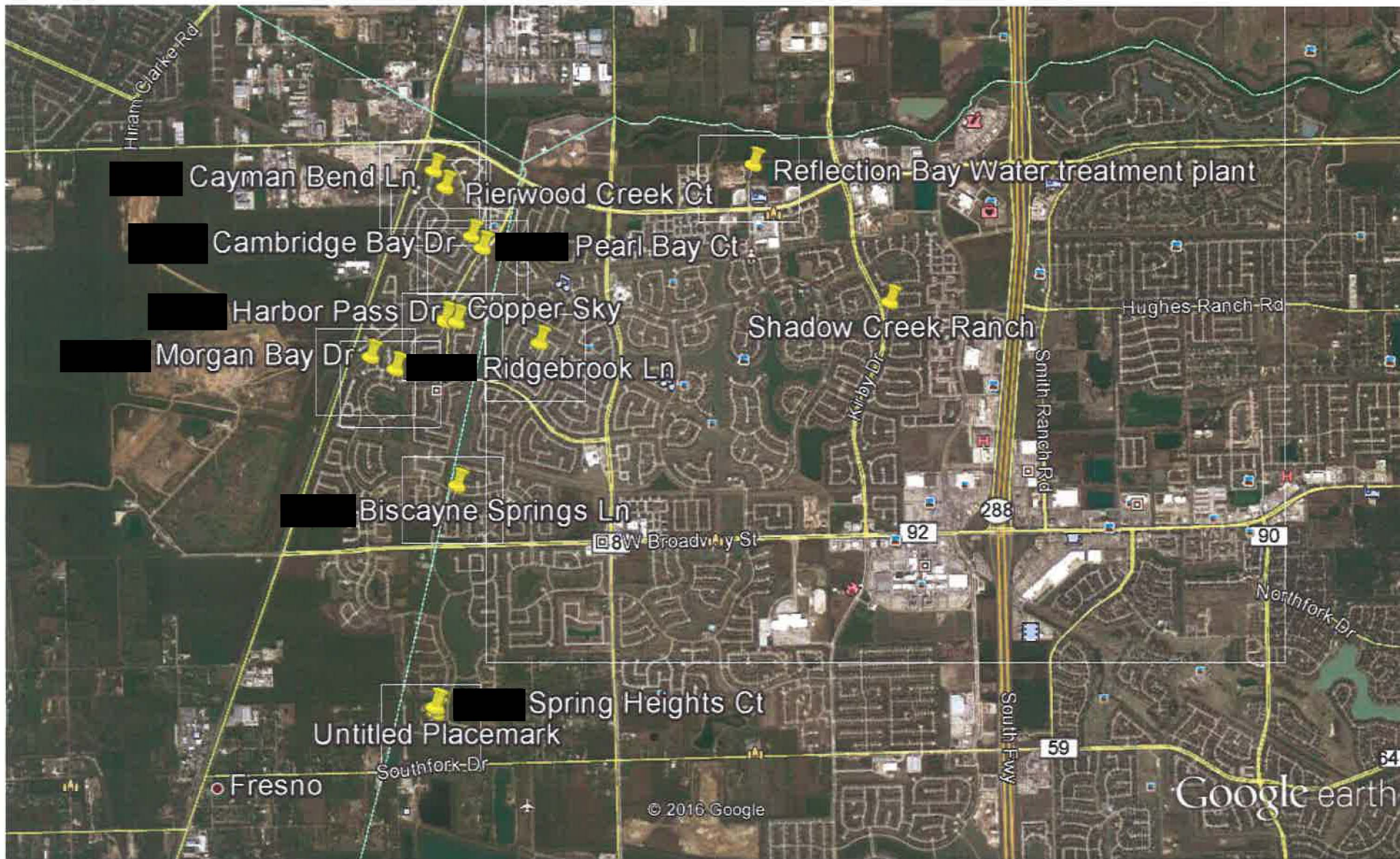
☐ Maps, Plans, Sketches
☐ Photographs
☐ Correspondence from the facility
☒ Other (specify) : _____

Attachment 1

AREA MAP

**SHADOW CREEK RANCH SUBDIVISION
PEARLAND, TEXAS
FORT BEND COUNTY**

MARCH 17, 2016



Google earth

miles
km



Investigation Type: Complaint
Air Account NO: RN104046545
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