

Complainants had varying descriptions for the odor including "mixing smell"; "stinky like natural gas"; "garbage smell"; "acrid odor"; "smells like a combination of rotting trash and gas or maybe even sewer"; and "smelled like rotten eggs". Most of the complainants indicated that the smell was strong, especially at night (2200-0100) and early morning hours (0300-0800). Two of the complainants suggested that the Blueridge landfill to the west of the Shadow Creek Ranch was the source of the odor. Complainants claimed that the odor has been present several times a week for months. Two of the complainants claimed to be experiencing health effects. One complainant claimed that the odor caused headache and nausea, and another claimed that it stings/irritates their lungs and eyes. One of the complainants expressed concern for their health, but did not allege any health effects.

Map of source location is included in Attachment 1.

Date of investigations: February 29, 2016
Names of investigators: Jay Evans, Chris Crook
Time of arrival: 1930

Description of the surrounding land use: Residential and industrial
Description of the terrain: Flat with sporadic forest

Meteorological conditions February 22, 2016 (alleged incident date)
Cloud Cover: overcast
Wind direction: calm
Wind Speed: calm
Temperature: 63 degrees Fahrenheit
Precipitation: 0.1 in
Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

Meteorological conditions February 23, 2016 (alleged incident date)
Cloud Cover: overcast
Wind direction: south/southeast
Wind Speed: 12 mph
Temperature: 63 degrees Fahrenheit
Precipitation: 0 in
Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

Meteorological conditions February 24, 2016 (alleged incident date)
Cloud Cover: clear
Wind direction: west/southwest
Wind Speed: 5 mph
Temperature: 44 degrees Fahrenheit
Precipitation: 0 in
Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

Meteorological conditions February 25, 2016 (alleged incident date)
Cloud Cover: clear
Wind direction: calm
Wind Speed: calm
Temperature: 37 degrees Fahrenheit
Precipitation: 0 in
Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

Meteorological conditions February 26, 2016 (alleged incident date)
Cloud Cover: clear
Wind direction: East
Wind Speed: 10 mph
Temperature: 54 degrees Fahrenheit
Precipitation: 0 in
Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

Meteorological conditions February 27, 2016 (alleged incident date)

Cloud Cover: clear
Wind direction: calm
Wind Speed: calm
Temperature: 41 degrees Fahrenheit
Precipitation: 0 in
Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

Meteorological conditions February 29, 2016 (alleged incident date and investigation date)
Cloud Cover: overcast
Wind direction: east/southeast
Wind Speed: 7 mph
Temperature: 62 degrees Fahrenheit
Precipitation: 0 in
Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

Investigation Narrative

February 29, 2016

Environmental Investigators Mr. Jay Evans and Mr. Chris Crook arrived at Shadow Creek Ranch at approximately 1930. The investigators drove through the Shadow Creek Ranch subdivision and along a route that was within the area from where the complaints were received, see the Survey Route Map in attachment 3 for the route taken.

The investigators drove slowly with the windows down on Shadow Creek Parkway and turned southeast onto Trinity Bay Drive. Then investigators turned west onto Acadia Bay and south on Windward Bay. At Broadway Street, the investigators continued west toward Highway 521 and then northeast toward McHard Road. No odors were detected on the route in the area surrounding the complainant's addresses.

At the intersection of Highway 521 & McHard Road, the investigators stopped at the convenience store parking lot to verify wind conditions. Since the wind had a different velocity and direction than when the complaints were made, the investigators drove downwind of the Blue Ridge Landfill on McHard Road and performed two thirty minute odor surveys. At 2000, the investigators started the first odor log (see attachment 3 for location) which was in the driveway of a self-storage facility. A landfill gas odor was detected, with an intensity of light to moderate. The odor was characterized as "highly offensive." The odor was not of sufficient frequency, intensity, duration, and offensiveness to confirm a nuisance condition. At 2030, the investigators moved over to a second location where another 30 minute odor log was performed. This location was at the intersection of McHard Road and East Rippleridge Drive. A landfill gas odor was detected, with an intensity of light to moderate. The odor was characterized as "highly offensive." The odor was not of sufficient frequency, intensity, duration, and offensiveness to confirm a nuisance condition.

After the second log was completed at 2110, the investigators drove back through the subdivision with the windows down on the route taken at the start of the investigation to verify that odors were not present. No odors were detected on the second pass through the neighborhood. The investigators left the Shadow Creek Ranch subdivision at 2125.

Additionally, on March 2, 2016, Mr. Evans accompanied a TCEQ Waste Investigator on an odor survey and onsite visit to Blue Ridge Landfill. Additional information can be found in Investigation # 1314675.

Odor logs are included in attachment 2.
Odor survey route maps are included in attachment 3.

Information regarding landfill odors can be found at
<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/toxicology/q-a/landfills>

Facility Authorization Narrative

NA

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 on April 22, 2016 and April 28, 2016 with the results of the investigation.

GENERAL FACILITY AND PROCESS INFORMATION

Process Description

Since this was an odor survey and was not conducted at a facility there is no process description.

BACKGROUND

Agreed Orders, Court Orders, and Other Compliance Agreements

NA

Prior Enforcement Issues

NA

Complaints

The zipcode 77584 has received a large volume of complaints regarding odors in the area.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Conclusions, Recommendations, and Current Enforcement Actions

Based on the TCEQ's Odor Complaint Investigation Procedures and application of the FIDO Chart, a single occurrence of a "highly offensive" odor with an intensity of "very strong" would need to be present continuously for 1 hour in order to constitute a nuisance condition. Since the odor did not have an intensity of very strong and did not last 1 hour, the single occurrence documented during this investigation does not constitute a nuisance condition based on the TCEQ FIDO protocol.

Additional Issues

No additional issues were noted during this investigation.

REPORT ATTACHMENTS

1. Area Map
2. Investigator's Odor Logs
3. Odor Survey Route Maps

No Violations Associated to this Investigation

Signed

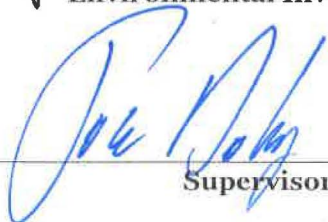


Environmental Investigator

Date

4/29/16

Signed



Supervisor

Date

4/28/16

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 inv. Attachments

Attachment 1

Area Map

Investigation Number 1314878

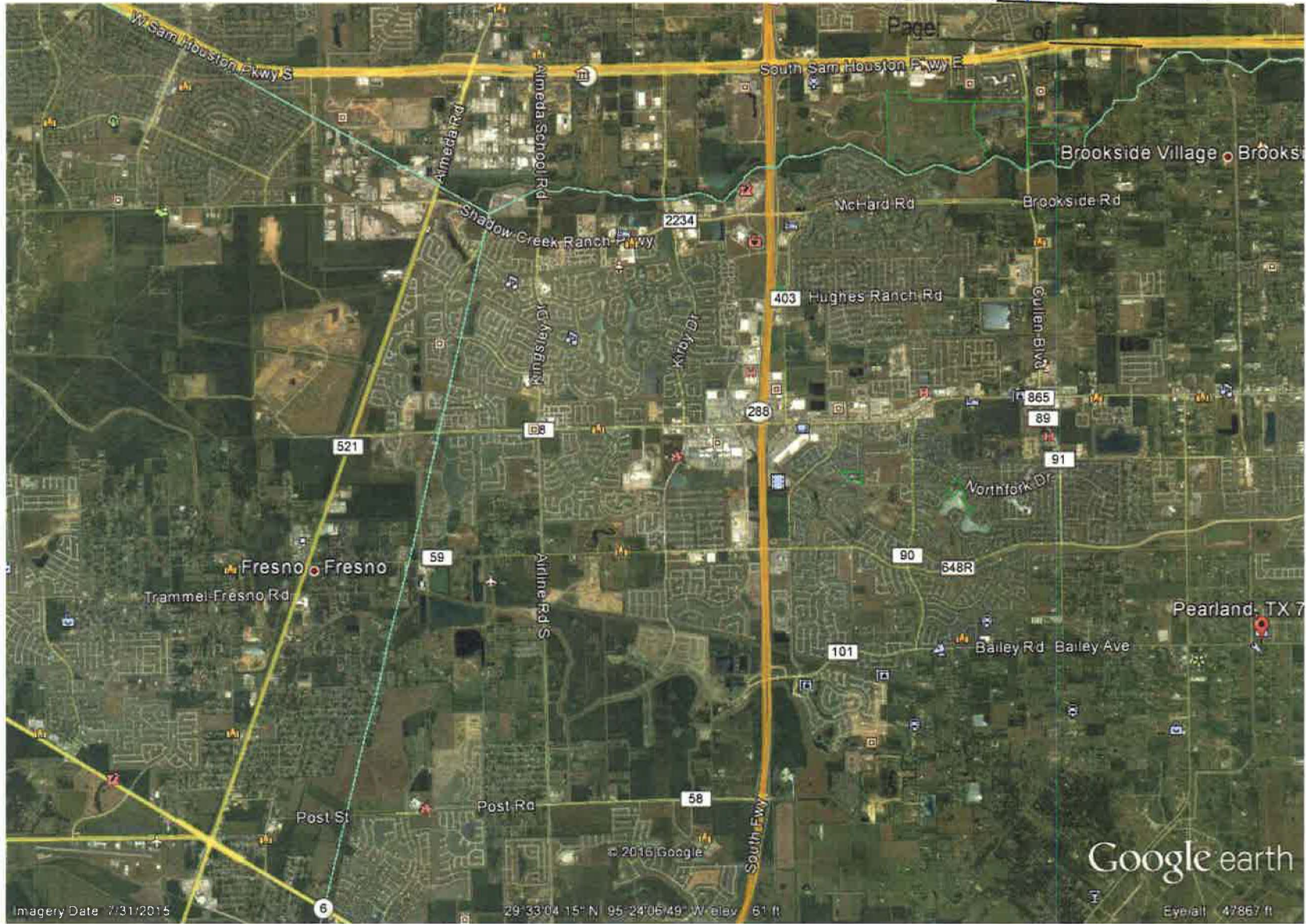
Date of Investigation: 02/29/2016

Area Map

Investigation Type: CMPL

Air Account NO: NA

Attachment: 1 of 1



Attachment 2

Odor logs

Investigation Number 1314878

Date of Investigation: 02/29/2016

Investigator's Odor Intensity Time Log

Date of Investigation: 2/29/16 Start Time 8:50
 Name and Address of Alleged Source: Blue Ridge Landfill
 Investigator's Name: Print: Chris Cook Sign: Chris Cook
 Location 1 Location 2

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

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

Investigation Type: CAIR
 Air Account NO: NH
 Attachment: 2
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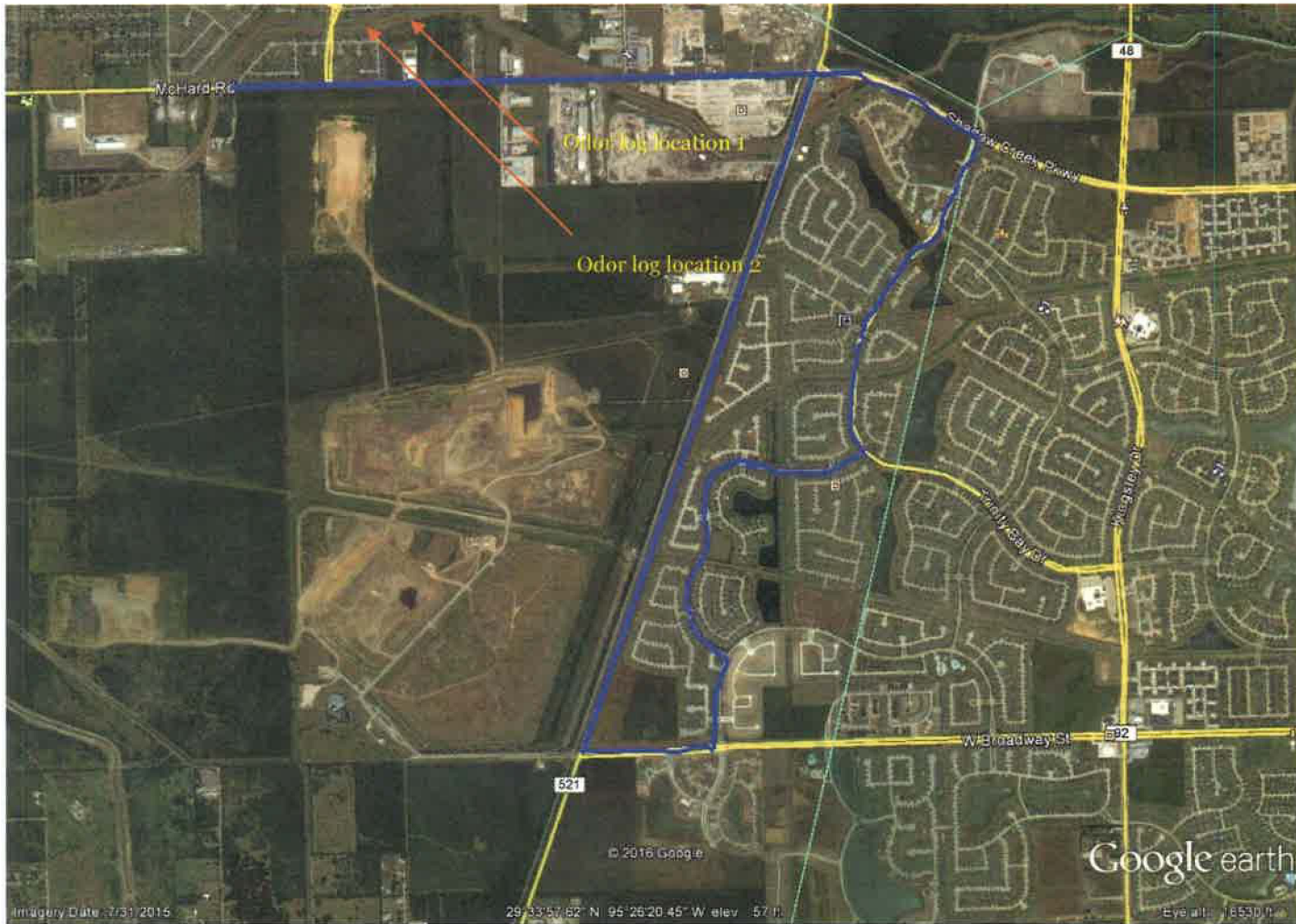
Offensiveness: Highly Offensive Unpleasant Not Unpleasant
 Dominant Odor Intensity For:

	VS	S	M	L	VL	No Odor
1 Min						
10 Min						
1 Hour			<u>✓L2</u>	<u>✓-L1</u>		

30 min

Attachment 3
Odor Survey Route Map
Investigation Number 1314878
Date of Investigation: 02/29/2016

Route Map



Investigation Type: CMML
Air Account NO: NA
Attachment: 3
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