

AIR CP CG_BRAZORIA_CP_20160129_INVESTIGATION_1308250_
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 # 1308250

Incident Numbers
226082

Investigator: YAYMA MARTINEZ

Site Classification

Conducted: 01/29/2016 -- 01/29/2016

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

KATHLEEN CAMPBELL

Investigator

SETH TATE

QA Reviewer

AMY MESSICK

Supervisor

AMY MESSICK

Associated Check List

Checklist Name

AIR COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

Unit Name

ZIP CODE 77584

Investigation Comments:

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Between January 12, 2016 and January 16, 2016, 38 complaints were received via the TCEQ online complaint form and Houston Region's air section phone duty line. The complaints regard an odor from an unknown source that is creating a nuisance inside residences and businesses. In most cases, the complainants alleged a chemical odor, similar to H₂S. Others reported awful odor on the property, but they were unable to describe the odor in

more detail. See CCEDS Incident #226082 for more details on the complaints filed.

At the time the incidents were received, the area was mostly clear, with temperatures around 75°F, and wind speed at about 5 mph. This information came from the Weather Underground website, Friendswood (KLVJ), TX station.

The investigator contacted all of the complainants via telephone on January 22 and 25, 2016 to obtain more detailed information about the allegations and to inform them of the future investigation date. Some complainants alleged the odor does not occur on a daily basis. It is intermittent and typically occurs at night or early early in the morning, especially when the wind is somewhat calm. One complainant alleged headaches and nausea onset by the odor. There were people who could not sleep because of how strong the smell was inside their home. Mostly, however, the complainants are concerned about the nature of what they are breathing. The complainants mentioned Akzo Nobel Surface Chemistry (Akzo), Blue Ridge Landfill (Blue Ridge), Maverick (oil and gas drilling), and Sierra Chemicals (Sierra) as potential sources of the odor.

Investigation Narrative

On January 29, 2016, at approximately 8:30 a.m., TCEQ investigators Ms. Yayma Martinez, Ms. Kathleen Campbell, and Optical Gas Imaging Camera (OGIC) operator, Mr. Seth Tate, conducted an odor survey in the area of Pearland, Zip Code 77584 (Attachment 1). The area is residential with a large subdivision, Shadow Creek Ranch. There are some businesses and industrial warehouses on the outskirts of the subdivision. There is a landfill to the west and some chemical manufacturing facilities to the north and northwest. The temperature was 53 degrees Fahrenheit and the wind was blowing from the WNW and WSW at about 2 to 4 miles per hour.

The survey began at the intersection of South Highway 288 and McHard Rd. No odor was detected there. The investigators traveled west on McHard Rd and south on Kirby Dr. to Broadway St. On Broadway St., the investigators turned west. A light odor was noticed around Half Moon Bay, but it quickly dissipated.

At 9:15 a.m., the investigators went north on Kinglsey Dr. As the investigators approached McHard Rd., a light odor was noticed. It increased in intensity the closer the investigators got to McHard. The odor persisted as the investigators turned left on McHard Rd.; therefore, the investigators decided to stop and conduct an odor survey (Location #1, Attachment 1). The odor experienced by the investigators was a sharp, brine-like odor with a chemical undertone. At times it was ammoniac. The odor was categorized as "unpleasant" based on TCEQ's Frequency, Intensity, Duration, and Offensiveness (FIDO Chart). The odor varied in intensity from very light (VL) to moderate (M), with very light (VL) being the predominant intensity of the odor throughout the survey.

At 9:46 a.m., the investigators continued traveling west on McHard Rd and picked up the odor again. At 9:47 a.m., a second survey was conducted (Location #2, Attachment #1). Again, the intensity of the odor was predominantly VL and it quickly dissipated when the wind speed increased. The survey concluded after four consecutive minutes of no odor.

Continuing west on McHard Rd., the investigators stopped west of the intersection of McHard Rd. and FM 521 (Alameda Rd.). This location is immediately south of Akzo. Mr. Seth Tate imaged the facility with the OGIC. No odors or visible emissions were detected.

At 10:07 a.m., the investigators traveled south on FM 521, by Blue Ridge. A very light garbage odor was noticed but this was not consistent with what the complainants alleged. At location #4, a very light odor was noticed, but it quickly dissipated. The investigators turned around at W. Broadway St. and headed north on FM 521, to Southbelt Industrial Dr. No odors were detected. The investigators turned around and went back south on FM 521 and west on McHard towards the oil fields.

The investigators arrived at the general area of oil fields at 10:40 a.m. There were no odors or visible emissions at locations #5, 6, and 7. The investigators continued traveling west on McHard Rd. Just past the intersection of Highway 99, location #8, there was a strong sulfuric odor. The investigators pulled over to conduct another odor survey; however, the odor was not experienced again. The investigators drove a bit further west then turned around and drove by the oil fields again. No more odors were experienced.

The survey concluded at 11:26 a.m.

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Based on the TCEQ's Odor Complaint Investigation Procedures and application of the FIDO Chart, an unpleasant odor with a very light intensity would have to be present on a daily basis 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.

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 February 9, 2016 at 1:45 p.m.

GENERAL FACILITY AND PROCESS INFORMATION

Process Description

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

BACKGROUND

Agreed Orders, Court Orders, and Other Compliance Agreements

N/A

Prior Enforcement Issues

N/A

Complaints

N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Conclusions, Recommendations, and Current Enforcement Actions

Based on this investigation, no violations are being alleged.

Additional Issues

No additional issues were noted during this investigation.

REPORT ATTACHMENTS

1. Area Map and Survey Route Map

No Violations Associated to this Investigation

Signed


Environmental Investigator

Date

4/20/16

Signed


Supervisor

Date

4/21/16

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

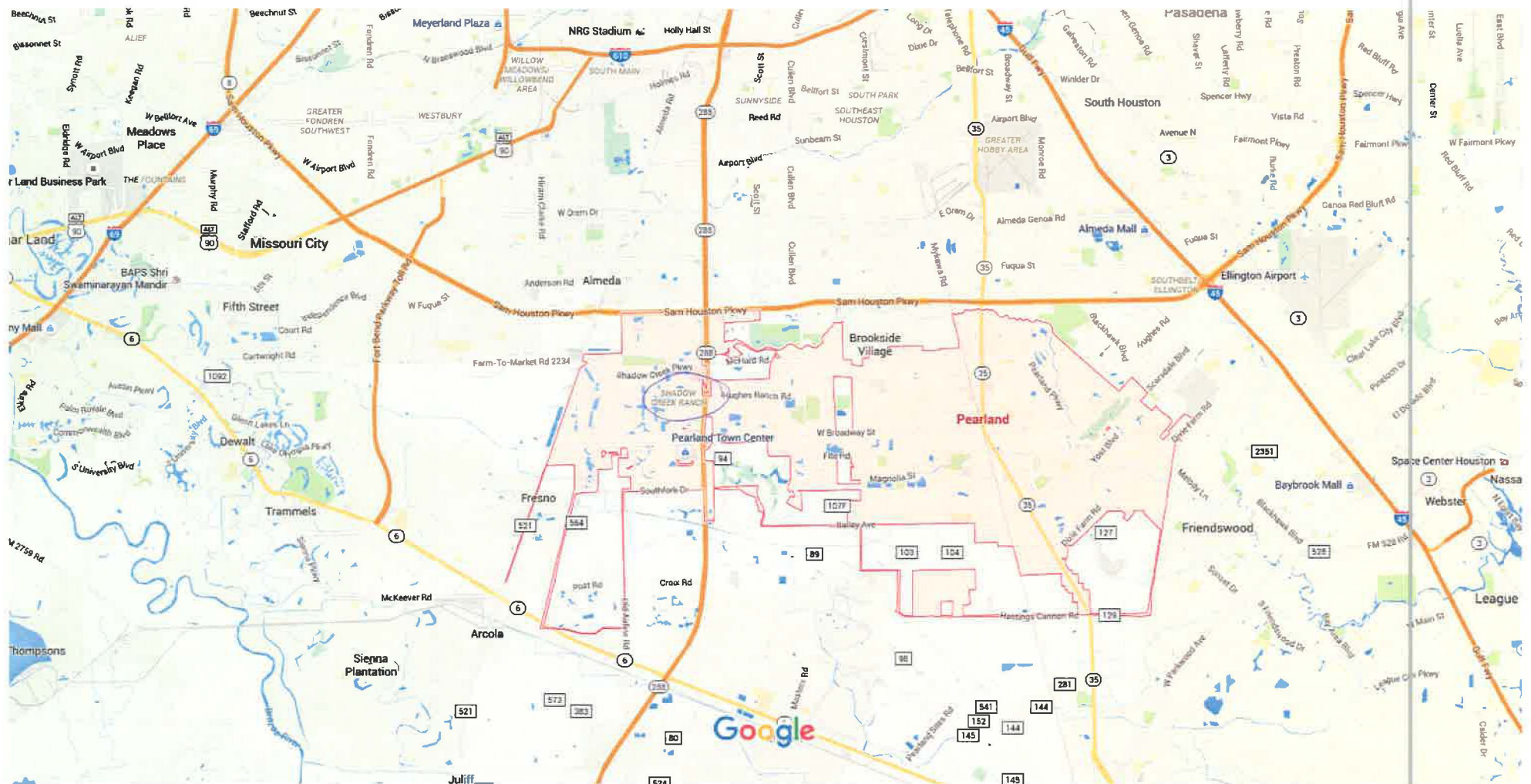
AREA MAP & SURVEY ROUTE

**RN 104-046-545
CN 602-295-370**

PEARLAND, BRAZORIA COUNTY

JANUARY 29, 2016

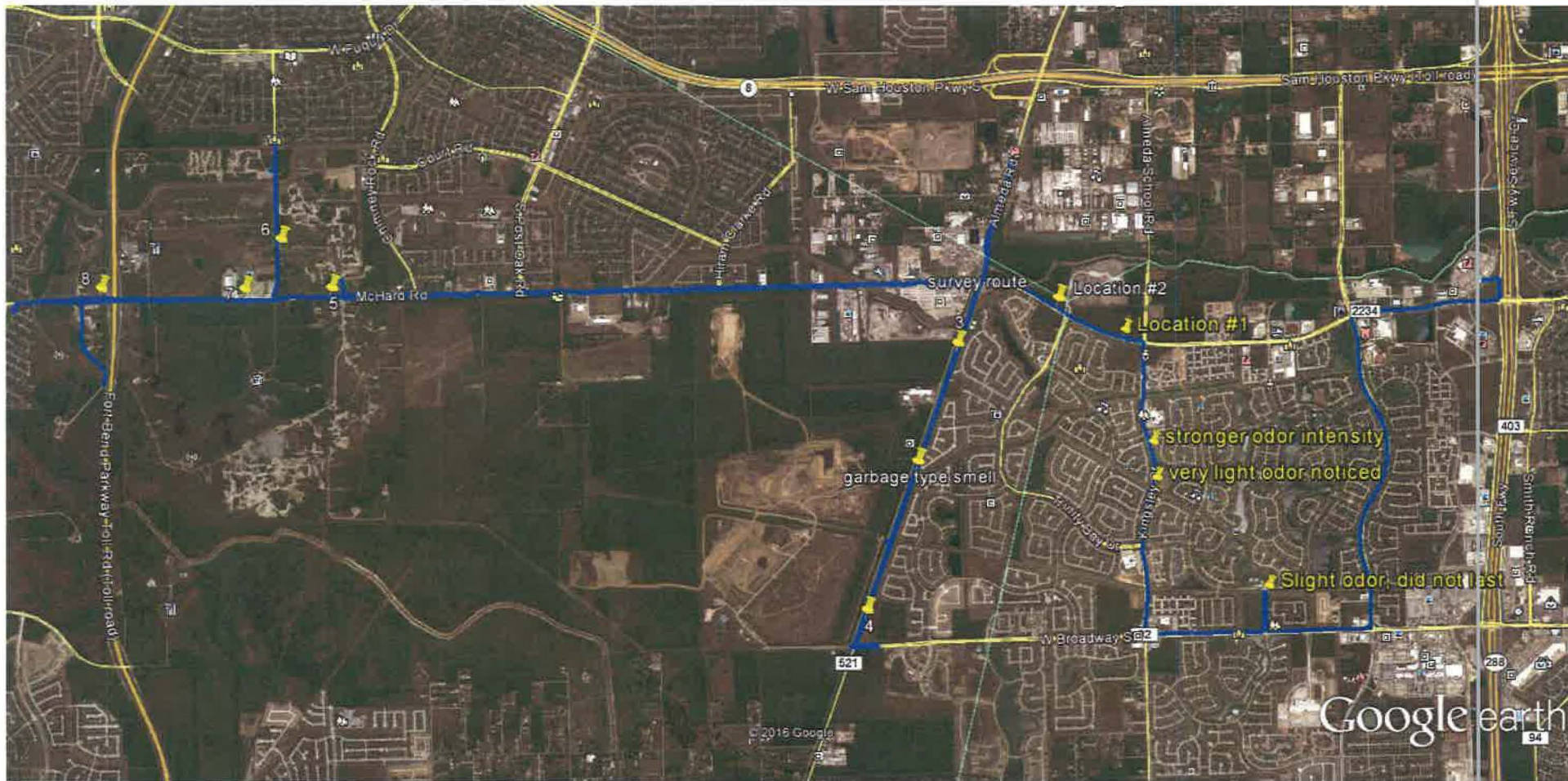
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