

AIR CP_104046545_CO_20160113_INVESTIGATION_1314182_
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 # 1314182

Incident Numbers

224461

Investigator: SAMUEL CORTEZ

Site Classification

Conducted: 12/10/2015 -- 01/13/2016

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

BRUCE MIEBS

QA Reviewer

ROBERT AGUILAR JR

Supervisor

ROBERT AGUILAR JR

Investigator

HINA IMTIAZ

Associated Check List

Checklist Name

AIR COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

Unit Name

Shadow Creek Ranch Area

Investigation Comments:

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

There were 33 complaint incidents received by email and telephone to the TCEQ Houston Region 12 Office for incident number 224461 during the period of December 8, 2015 through December 10, 2015.

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Intermittent odors have been affecting the complainants due to multiple sources including the following: Blueridge Landfill; Akzo Nobel; Maverick; and Nalco Champion. The odors affect the complainants during the evening hours from dusk until dawn. The odor complaints included the following: strong toxic smell; chemical smells; trash smells; gas; poisonous; and sulfur odors. There were health effects alleged in which some of the complainants experienced headaches, eye pain, and nausea.

On December 10, 2015, the day of the investigation, weather conditions were as follows: 82.9 degrees Fahrenheit; wind speeds of 8.1 mph from the south southeast; and mostly cloudy skies.

Complainants were contacted on December 9, 2015.

Investigation Narrative

Investigators Mr. Samuel Cortez, Mr. Bruce Miebs, and Ms. Hina Imtiaz met near the intersection of FM 288 and McHard Road to conduct an odor survey.

During the hours of 4:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. an initial odor survey was conducted on McHard Road and the Shadow Creek Ranch neighborhood. Specifically, two different odors were identified. The first odor was detected at the intersection of the Fort Bend County Toll Road (west) and McHard Road (south). The odor was of an oil and gas nature. It was noted that a flare was in operation at the time of the survey. The second odor was detected on McHard Road between the intersections of Hiram Clarke Road and Park Manor Street. This odor was of a Landfill nature. The first odor had a very strong intensity and was unpleasant, the second odor had a moderate intensity and was offensive. During the odor survey winds were calm and out of the south, with low visibility less than a mile due to fog. During the odor survey of the Shadow Creek Ranch neighborhood no odors could be detected with the survey of reference, including the following main neighborhood outlets: Arcadia Bay; Trinity Bay; and Biscayne Bay. Other streets of note that were surveyed included: Mountain Sage Drive and Moonlit Lane. It was noted that only a very light odor was detected at the lift station on Biscayne Bay Drive. In conclusion of this portion of the survey, an odor log was not conducted, however odors were detected on McHard Road between Hiram Clarke Road and Park Manor Street due to Blueridge Landfill. Mr. Miebs left this portion of the investigation at 7:30 a.m. to conduct a previously scheduled investigation. Weather conditions, provided by weather underground, during these surveys had a temperature range of 51 to 54 degrees fahrenheit with calm winds, no precipitation, and foggy conditions.

During the hours of 7:40 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. an odor survey was conducted in alternate surrounding areas which included the intersection of Chimney Rock Road and Trammel Fresno Road which is south of Blueridge Landfill, which is a potential alleged source of the nuisance conditions present at McHard Road. No odors were detected south of Blueridge Landfill in the Cambridge Falls neighborhood. There was an outdoor burning odor detected at the intersection of Maryland Street at Trammel Fresno Road, however; there were no fires observed. The investigators moved the odor survey north of McHard Road to West Drive and Bluebonnet Street. The landfill odor was still present the closer you were to McHard Road. An odor survey was conducted at Beltway 8 and Alameda Road next to the Delta Waste Service Landfill along with United Chemical, Houma, and Rolls Royce. There were very light traces of a landfill odor, however; nuisance conditions were not present at the landfill nor the other locations in this area.

The investigators concluded the odor survey between the time of 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. an odor log was conducted on McHard road north of the Blueridge Landfill. The odor log concluded that the intensity of the odors was averaged out to be moderate over the course of one hour for a single occurrence. At the time of the odor log, wind speeds were measured at 12.7 miles per hour with gusts up to 17.3 miles per hour. A nuisance condition could not be confirmed. Survey Maps of the areas surveyed are located in Attachment 1. Weather conditions, provided by weather underground, during these surveys had a temperature range of 55 to 75 degrees fahrenheit, no precipitation, and cloudy skies.

The investigators arrived at Blueridge landfill at 11:15 a.m. The investigators were greeted by Mr. Matt Montagna after signing in at the guard shack. Mr. Montagna provided a brief description of the facility and the odor controls. Mr. Montagna explained that there are two internal misters which are 1,800 feet and 2,000 feet lining the east perimeter of active and covered waste cells. He also mentioned that 2,500 feet of lining were already onsite and planned for installment within the next month. The protocol for active cells is that 8 to 10 inches of dirt are to cover the cells daily. Blueridge Landfill operates under Federal Operating Permit O-01472, which was last revised in April 2011, and is major for carbon monoxide. Blueridge Landfill operates 2 flares, one active and one emergency for control of emissions. The emissions are monitored and checked monthly by a third party

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contractor Weaver Boos Consulting. Blueridge Landfill maintains a closed leachate system consisting of 2 leachate tanks of 1,700 gallons each. The leachate is discharged one to two times per month into the city of Pearland sanitation sewer system. The last discharge was conducted on November 17, 2015 in which about 248,129 gallons were discharged. The location of the injection point of leachate into the sanitation sewer line is located at the intersection of Broadway Street (north side) and Almeda Road (east side). This sanitation sewer line travels around the Shadow Creek Ranch neighborhood to Reflection Bay WRP package plant facility. The discharge is sampled and tested by Blueridge Landfill and the City of Pearland. No odors were detected at the injection point. Blueridge Landfill is closed on Sundays and opens from 4:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 5:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

After leaving the landfill it was noted that a mercaptan injection station is located on Almeda road in which a natural gas pipeline is located and runs through the Shadow Creek Ranch neighborhood in between McHard Road and Broadway Street. Checks for Inflow Protectors were conducted at 10 random places over the sanitation sewer lines and were determined to be in place on the line. A separate audit was conducted by Mr. Eric Wilson of the city of Pearland. The results noted that 10 inflow protectors were malfunctioning in the Shadow Creek Ranch neighborhood.

The investigators arrived at Reflection Bay WRP Package Plant at 1:20 p.m. The operator informed the investigators that the treatment facility is not responsible for any issues occurring outside the facility and that all external sanitation issues were handled by the City of Pearland through the lift stations, if any existed. He did say that the leachate discharge does route to the Reflection Bay WRP Package Plant. The investigator left the facility at 2:00 p.m.

A water summary of events incorporated into the narrative was completed by Mr. Miebs on January 13, 2016.

Facility Authorization Narrative

Blueridge Landfill operates under Federal Operating Permit O-01472, was last revised in April 2011, and is major for carbon monoxide.

Exit Interview

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

GENERAL FACILITY AND PROCESS INFORMATION

Process Description

The alleged sources included the following: Blueridge Landfill; Akzo Nobel; Maverick; Nalco Champion; United Chemical; Houma; and Rolls Royce. These sources range from waste disposal facilities to chemical manufacturers.

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.

Additional Issues

No additional issues were noted during this investigation.

REPORT ATTACHMENTS

1. Survey Map

No Violations Associated to this Investigation

Signed 

Environmental Investigator

Date 4/26/16

Signed 

Supervisor

Date 4/27/16

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 Report Attachment

Attachment 1

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RN 104-046-545

Pearland/Shadow Creek Odor Complaint

Investigation Date: December 10, 2015 through January 13, 2016

Investigation Number 1314182

1. Survey Map

