

Minutes Odor Task Force  
September 21, 2016

The Odor Task Force held a regular meeting at 6:00 PM, in the Pearland Convention and Visitors Bureau Conference Room located at 11200 Broadway, Suite 1390 in Pearland, Texas.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM
2. Roll Call: The following members were in attendance at the meeting:

Jon R. Branson  
Kami Brady  
Kevin McLeod  
Ed Mears  
Brandon Rodgers  
Laurie Rodriguez  
Eric Wilson  
Guest - Scott Trebus (Republic Waste representative)

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the minutes from the September 7, 2016 Odor Task Force Minutes:

A motion was made by Mr. Ed Mears to approve the minutes as amended. The minutes were amended and the motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin McLeod and the minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Open discussion:

- Kevin McLeod passed out the attached Region 12 Pearland Area Monitoring Project Report regarding the June 6-10 monitoring period. The report indicated there were quantifiable levels of H<sub>2</sub>S levels above the state regulatory standard of 0.080 ppmv measured in the Shadow Creek Ranch during periods of noticeable odors and odors documented by Region 12 staff.

H<sub>2</sub>S was consistently measured downwind of Republic Services Blue Ridge Landfill and Lone Star Disposal and Recycling facility during the monitoring period.

Several facilities including, but not limited to Akzo Nobel Surface Chemistry, Brentag Southwest Chemical Plant, City of Pearland Reflection Bay Waste Water Treatment Plant, Centerpoint Energy odorizing station and Syntech Chemicals,

Inc., were also surveyed during the monitoring period and no target compounds were detected downwind of the facilities.

The Toxicology Division of Human Health evaluation of the information determined that adverse health effects from target VOCs would not be expected. Additionally, H<sub>2</sub>S concentrations were below levels that would contribute to direct health effects, however, the reported concentrations could contribute to perceptible odors consistent with citizen complaints.

The Toxicology Division encourages H<sub>2</sub>S reductions necessary to prevent odor nuisance conditions in the area. The summary of the report indicates that strong odors may cause indirect, odor-related health effects such as headache or nausea.

Mr. Ed Mears questioned why there weren't any tests performed for Methane? Mr. Mears stated in his opinion "the objective of this report should have been to detect Methane". He went on to say that TCEQ "missed the ball" with this report.

Mrs. Kami Brady asked if the report identified the source. Mr. McLeod indicated that was not the purpose of the monitoring project. The purpose of air monitoring project was designed to assist and support regional staff investigations related to odor complaints in the Shadow Creek Ranch neighborhood located in Pearland, TX. Objectives for this project were to coordinate with Region 12 staff, to collect ambient air data, and to collect quality air monitoring data to measure potential hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) and the target compounds and for SSWG staff to conduct odor surveys during the air monitoring time period.

Furthermore, TCEQ currently has 1676 separate complaints regarding this matter and 67 active investigations going on at this time. A massive amount of information is and has been collected. At this point no enforcement action has been taken. According to TCEQ there are two paths of action that could potentially take place in the future.

**Notice of Violation** – A notice that is sent to an entity informing them they are in violation of their permit. In most cases, TCEQ would then give the violator a 30 day notice with corrective action to follow or respond. If action is not taken after a specific period of time, documentation is sent to the Austin office for further action. The party that was issued the Notice of Violation could contest the Notice if deemed appropriate.

**Notice of Enforcement** – If evidence reaches a certain level of violation a Notice of Enforcement can be issued by TCEQ which typically comes with penalties and corrective action via the State Office of Administrative Hearing.

In regards to the west Pearland odor issue, no enforcement action has been taken by TCEQ as of this time. TCEQ will continue with their investigations however, their policy is to not comment on open investigations.

Moving forward affidavits are encouraged for those individuals that file odor complaints. The purpose of the affidavits are to further document the odor nuisance in the area.

Mr. Mears asked about Blue Ride Landfill's original gas modeling permit. Mr. Rogers indicated the original modeling permit for the landfill was based on the total amount of material to be deposited at the landfill at build out therefore, they will always be within their modeling permit until all cells are close to build out. From an operation standpoint Blue Ridge will continue construction on their gas plant in October.

5. Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled to take place on October 12, 2016.

6. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM.