

Air CP\_102610102\_CP\_20161025\_Investigation\_1370467\_  
**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**  
**Investigation Report**

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**Customer: Blue Ridge Landfill TX, LP**  
**Customer Number: CN602820599**

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**Regulated Entity Name: BLUE RIDGE LANDFILL**

**Regulated Entity Number: RN102610102**

**Investigation #** 1370467

**Incident Numbers**

245785

**Investigator:** ANDREW EVANS

**Site Classification** MAJOR SOURCE

**Conducted:** 10/25/2016 -- 11/17/2016

**NAIC Code:** 562212

**SIC Code:** 4953

**SIC Code:** 1521

**Program(s):** AIR OPERATING PERMITS

**Investigation Type:** Site Assessment

**Location:** LOCATED ON 2200 FM 521

**Additional ID(s):** FG0536E  
1472

**Address:** 2200 FM 521 RD,  
FRESNO, TX , 77545

**Local Unit:** REGION 12 - HOUSTON

**Activity Type(s):** AIRCOMPL - AIR CMPL - AIR  
COMPLAINT INV

**Principal(s):**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>
RESPONDENT	BLUE RIDGE LANDFILL TX LP

**Contact(s):**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>
REGULATED ENTITY CONTACT	OPERATIONS MANAGER	MR MATT MONTAGNA	Work (713) 676-7664

**Other Staff Member(s):**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>
QA Reviewer	JUSTIN MAYWORN
Supervisor	DANIEL O'BRIEN
Investigator	JUSTIN MAYWORN

**Associated Check List**

<b><u>Checklist Name</u></b>	<b><u>Unit Name</u></b>
AIR COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION	sitewide
AIR GENERIC INVESTIGATION (10 ITEMS)	sitewide

**Investigation Comments:**

INTRODUCTION  
Introduction

**BLUE RIDGE LANDFILL - FRESNO**

**10/25/2016 to 11/17/2016 Inv. # - 1370467**

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From October 21 - 27, 2016, TCEQ received twenty-three (23) complaints (documented in incident report 245785) by telephone and e-mail regarding a strong odor in the vicinity of Shadow Creek Ranch neighborhood in Pearland, Texas.

Complainants had varying descriptions for the odor including "chemical smell"; "chemical/garbage smell"; "foul like trash"; "smelled a lot like gas"; "horrible chemical/burning/trash smell"; "toxic chemical smell"; "rotten egg dump smell"; "hydrogen sulfide"; "toxic chemical smelling gas"; "strong gas smell"; "gas and trash smell"; "horrible smell"; "smell of rotten garbage"; "nauseating smell"; "weird smell"; "odor from burning trash"; "very strong stinging smell"; "sulfur smell"; "chemical and rotten egg smell"; "like chemical and garbage"; and "smelled like rotten eggs". Additionally, a total of nine complainants noted health effects. Three noted both headache and nausea, three noted a headache only, and four noted nausea only.

Most of the complainants indicated that the smell was strong, especially at night to the early morning hours (2130-0600). Most of the complainants suggested that the Blue Ridge landfill to the west of the Shadow Creek Ranch was the source of the odor, although two complainants suggested that it could have been a local chemical plant.

Map of source location is included in Attachment 1.

Date of investigations: October 25, 2016  
Names of investigators: Jay Evans, Justin Mayworn  
Time of arrival: 0630

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

Meteorological conditions October 21, 2016 (alleged incident date)  
Cloud Cover: clear  
Wind direction: NNE  
Wind Speed: 9 mph  
Temperature: 69 degrees Fahrenheit  
Precipitation: none  
Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

Meteorological conditions October 22, 2016 (alleged incident date)  
Cloud Cover: Clear  
Wind direction: NA  
Wind Speed: Calm  
Temperature: 49 degrees Fahrenheit  
Precipitation: none  
Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

Meteorological conditions October 25, 2016 (investigation date)  
Cloud Cover: Clear  
Wind direction: Calm  
Wind Speed: Calm  
Temperature: 60 degrees Fahrenheit  
Precipitation: none  
Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

Meteorological conditions October 27, 2016 (alleged incident date)  
Cloud Cover: Clear  
Wind direction: Calm  
Wind Speed: Calm  
Temperature: 59 degrees Fahrenheit  
Precipitation: none  
Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

## BLUE RIDGE LANDFILL - FRESNO

10/25/2016 to 11/17/2016 Inv. # - 1370467

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#### Investigation Narrative

October 25, 2016

Environmental Investigators Mr. Jay Evans and Mr. Justin Mayworn arrived at Shadow Creek Ranch at approximately 6:30 a.m. The investigators exited Southfork Drive and proceeded north on Highway 521 towards West Broadway Street. From West Broadway Street, 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 had the window down and did not detect any odors until arriving at Mountain Sage Road (see attachment 2 for location).

At 6:56 a.m. at 2501 Mountain Sage Road, the investigators took concurrent odor surveys for 26 minutes. A very light to strong landfill gas odor (offensive) was detected for 13 minutes, but was not of sufficient intensity, duration, and offensiveness to confirm a nuisance condition. Additionally, the investigators confirmed the presence of the 'honeysuckle' odor that is known to be released by the deodorizers at the adjoining Blue Ridge Landfill.

After completing the logs, the investigators continued through the subdivision along the route north of the landfill to the Greater Houston Gun Club shooting range (see attachment 3). Odors were not detected at other areas along the route. The investigators left the Shadow Creek Ranch subdivision and surrounding area at approximately 8:30 a.m.

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.texas.gov/toxicology/q-a/landfills>

#### Facility Authorization Narrative

Blue Ridge Landfill operates under federal operating permit (FOP) # O-01472 (General Operating Permit #517).

#### 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 via email with the results of the investigation.

#### GENERAL FACILITY AND PROCESS INFORMATION

##### Process Description

Blue Ridge Landfill is a Type 1 Municipal Solid Waste landfill. Details of the process description can be found at the Houston Region Central files.

#### BACKGROUND

##### Agreed Orders, Court Orders, and Other Compliance Agreements

Based on review of CCEDS and the regional office files during the past five years, there were no agreed orders, court orders, or other compliance agreements for the site.

##### Prior Enforcement Issues

Based on a review of CCEDS and the regional office files, three violations were issued by the TCEQ to the alleged source during the past five years. There are no repeat violations. Additionally, there is currently an open enforcement action with the facility. See investigation number 1331231 and violation tracking number 615250 (Category A10a) for additional details.

##### Complaints

Based on a review of CCEDS and Regional Office records, there have been hundreds of odor complaints received from within the survey area and numerous investigations related to odors. Many of these specifically identified Blue Ridge Landfill as the source.

**BLUE RIDGE LANDFILL - FRESNO**

10/25/2016 to 11/17/2016 Inv. # - 1370467

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Conclusions, Recommendations, and Current Enforcement Actions**

A very light to strong landfill gas odor was detected at one location during the odor surveys in the process of this investigation. There is currently an outstanding enforcement action at the Blue Ridge Landfill (see investigation 1331231 and violation tracking number 615250 for additional information). There were no violations alleged as a result of the investigation.

**Additional Issues**

No additional issues were noted during this investigation.

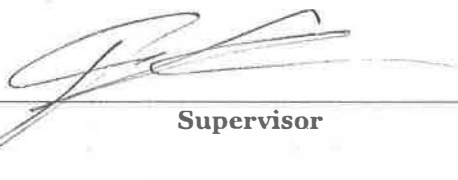
**REPORT ATTACHMENTS**

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

**No Violations Associated to this Investigation**

Signed   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Environmental Investigator

Date 2/23/17

Signed   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor

Date 2-23-17

**Attachments: (in order of final report submittal)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enforcement Action Request (EAR)          | <input type="checkbox"/> Maps, Plans, Sketches            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letter to Facility (specify type) : _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographs                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Investigation Report                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence from the facility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sample Analysis Results                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) : _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manifests                                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Registration                    | _____   |

**Attachment 1**

**Area Map**

**Investigation Number 1370467**

**Date of Investigation: 10/25/2016**

# Area Map



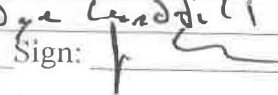
Attachment 2

Odor logs

Investigation Number 1370467

Date of Investigation: 10/25/2016

## Investigator's Odor Intensity Time Log

Date of Investigation: 10/25/16 Start Time 0654  
 Name and Address of Alleged Source: Blue Ridge Landfill  
 Investigator's Name: Print: Jay Evans Sign:   
2501 Mountain Scuse road

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

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


Offensiveness: Highly  Offensive \_\_\_ Unpleasant \_\_\_ Not Unpleasant \_\_\_  
 Dominant Odor Intensity For:

	VS	S	M	L	VL	No Odor
1 Min		✓(4.5)	✓(2.8) K			
10 Min			✓(2.8)			
1 Hour						

*Maximum weighted average*



## Investigator's Odor Intensity Time Log

Date of Investigation: 10/25/16 Start Time 0656  
 Name and Address of Alleged Source: Blue Ridge Landfill  
 Investigator's Name: Print: Mayworn Sign: 

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

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

No  
wink

Offensiveness: Highly  Offensive \_\_\_\_\_ Unpleasant \_\_\_\_\_ Not Unpleasant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dominant Odor Intensity For:

	VS	S	M	L	VL	No Odor
1 Min		(4)				
10 Min			(3.0)			
1 Hour						

maximum weighted average

resol Mtn Sage Rd.

investigator jagged

Weighted averages

10/25/2016

2501 Mountain Sage Road, Pearland, TX

Jay	Actual	10 min RA	1 min RA	Justin	Actual	10 min RA	1 min RA
1	0				0		
2	0			0	0		0
3	0			0	0		0
4	0			0	0		0
5	0			0	0		0
6	0			0	0		0
7	0			0	0		0
8	0			0	0		0
9	0			0	0		0
10	0	0		0	0	0	0
11	4	0.4		2	4	0.4	2
12	1	0.5		2.5	1	0.5	2.5
13	2	0.7		1.5	3	0.8	2
14	2	0.9		2	2	1	2.5
15	0	0.9		1	2	1.2	2
16	5	1.4		2.5	5	1.7	3.5
17	4	1.8		4.5	2	1.9	3.5
18	4	2.2		4	4	2.3	3
19	4	2.6		4	4	2.7	4
20	2	2.8		3	3	3	3.5
21	1	2.5		1.5	1	2.7	2
22	1	2.5		1	1	2.7	1
23	1	2.4		1	1	2.5	1
24	1	2.3		1	0	2.3	0.5
25	0	2.3		0.5	0	2.1	0
26	0	1.8		0	0	1.6	0
<b>Max</b>		5	2.8	4.5	5	3	4

Attachment 3  
Odor Survey Route Map  
Investigation Number 1370467  
Date of Investigation: 10/25/2016



## TCEQ Complaint Report

12/29/2016  
4:16:52PM

**Incident No:** 245785

**Media Type:** AIR

**Start Date:** 10/20/2016

**Received Date:** 10/20/2016

**Method :** EMAIL

**Staff Member:** ANEVANS

**Status:** Closed

**Status Date:** 12/12/2016

**Priority:** Within 5 Working Days

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**Regulated Entity:** GENERIC INCIDENT ZIP CODE 77584

**RN104046545**

**Address:**

BRAZORIA County

**Physical Location:**

**Responsible Party:**

**Address:**

**Title:**

**Number Complaining:** 1

**Frequency:** CURRENT

**Alleged Source:** GENERIC INCIDENT ZIP CODE 77584

**Program Group:** AIR QUALITY -  
HIGH LEVEL

**Nature:** ODOR

**Effect:** ENVIRONMENTAL

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### Initial Problem

The Complainant alleged impacts of odor coming from an unknown source in the area.

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### Action Taken

This complaint has been assigned and will be further investigated by an Environmental Investigator.

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### Closure Comments

More information will be available upon approval of the investigation report.

**Investigation Number:** 1370467

