

AIR CP_102610102_CP_20160526_Investigation_1336283_
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Investigation Report

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

Regulated Entity Name: BLUE RIDGE LANDFILL

Regulated Entity Number: RN102610102

Investigation # 1336283

Incident Numbers

233647

Investigator: ALEJANDRA DE LOS SANTOS

Site Classification MAJOR SOURCE

Conducted: 05/26/2016 -- 05/26/2016

NAIC Code: 562212

SIC Code: 4953

SIC Code: 1521

Program(s): AIR OPERATING PERMITS

Investigation Type: Compliance Investigation

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):

Role

Name

RESPONDENT

BLUE RIDGE LANDFILL TX LP

Contact(s):

Role

Title

Name

Phone

REGULATED
ENTITY MAIL
CONTACT

LANDFILL
OPERATION'S
MANAGER

MR MATT
MONTAGNA

Work (713) 676-7664
Office (281) 668-9739

Other Staff Member(s):

Role

Name

Supervisor
Investigator
QA Reviewer

CORBETT BRINLY
YAYMA MARTINEZ
JOHN ZHONG

Associated Check List

Checklist Name

AIR COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

Unit Name

Sitewide

Investigation Comments:

INTRODUCTION
Introduction

On May 21st and 23rd, 2016, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Houston Regional Office

BLUE RIDGE LANDFILL - FRESNO

5/26/2016 Inv. # - 1336283

Page 2 of 4

received 2 odor complaints by e-mail. These odor complaints have been assigned to incident #233647.

The complainants alleged that an odor of an unpleasant nature has been occurring in the area. The TCEQ has been receiving recent complaints regarding odor in this area since August 2015, and the duration and frequency has varied. For incident #233647, the complainants alleged the odors came from Blue Ridge Landfill (BRL) located at 2200 FM 521, Fresno, Texas.

Investigation Summary

The range of meteorological conditions over the 2 days when complaints were received are described below. All data was taken from the Weather Channel, Shadow Creek Ranch – Gables station (KTXPEARL43). The temperatures ranged from 76°F to 79° F, cloud cover was cloudy, there was a precipitation variation of 0.08 – 0.11 inches (in), wind speed varied from 1 – 2 miles per hours (mph), and winds coming from the east prevailed during the days of the incidents.

The complainants were contacted via e-mail by Ms. Alejandra De Los Santos on May 25, 2016 at 8:00 AM.

The complainants claimed a strong putrid odor of landfill waste and rotting garbage has been recurring over the last six to twelve months. Complainants allege health effects such as headaches, nausea, trouble breathing and nose pain. In addition to the health effects, the complainants alleged discomfort for not being able to go or stay outside on their property and in some cases the odor remained inside the residences even after the odor had stopped outside.

Investigation Narrative

On May 26th, 2016, investigators, Ms. Alejandra De Los Santos and Ms. Yayma Martinez, arrived in the vicinity of the complaint location in the Shadow Creek Ranch area at 6:00 AM (See Attachment 1 – Survey Route Map). The surrounding land use in this area is mainly residential and is predominantly flat terrain with trees and houses.

The meteorological conditions the day of the investigation were as follows. The average temperature was 81.2 °F, cloud cover was cloudy, there was precipitation of 0.11 in, the wind speed averaged from 4 – 8 mph, and wind coming from the SSE and SE prevailed. All data was taken from the Weather Channel, Shadow Creek Ranch – Gables station (KTXPEARL43).

At 6:15 AM, the investigators drove to Moss Lake Ln and surveyed the area (Attachment 1 – Location A). No odors were detected.

At 6:25 AM, the investigators drove to Hampton Bay Dr (Attachment 1 – Location B), but no odors were detected at the site.

At 6:39 AM, the investigators drove north on Alameda Rd. A very light honeysuckle smell was noted while driving. The investigators were not able to stop the vehicle due to heavy traffic. The investigators kept driving and turned west on FM 2234; the honeysuckle smell was still present.

The investigators then decided to drive around the neighborhood stopping at Caymand Bend Dr (Attachment 1 – Location C), Sorrell Ridge Ct (Attachment 1 – Location D), Laurel Loch Ln (Attachment 1 – Location E) and Lost Bridge Ln (Attachment 1 – Location F). At Lost Bridge Ln, a very light honeysuckle smell was detected for a few seconds.

At 7:30 AM, the investigators parked at S Ridgewalk Dr (Attachment 1 – Location G). Moderate to strong honeysuckle, rotting garbage and manure odors were initially detected. The investigators started an odor survey (See Attachment 2 - Investigators' Odor Logs). There were two odors detected during the odor survey. The rotting garbage odor from the landfill and the honeysuckle odor from the landfill misters are identified by "L" and "HS", respectively, on the Investigators' Odor Logs. The odor survey lasted 2 hours. The odors were constant during the survey, but at the end of the odor survey the intensity of the odors varied from very light to light. The investigators stopped the odor survey at 9:42 AM. The investigators did not experience any health effects.

During this investigation there were 2 main odors detected, a rotten garbage and honeysuckle odor. By previous investigations, it is known that the neutralizer used by Blue Ridge Landfill has a honeysuckle odor. Also, winds

BLUE RIDGE LANDFILL - FRESNO

5/26/2016 Inv. # - 1336283

Page 3 of 4

coming from the South prevailed during the investigation. The investigators were located North of BRL (Attachment 1 – Yellow Circle), while performing the investigation. Based on these findings, the source of the alleged odors appeared to be Blue Ridge Landfill. The investigation concluded at 9:46 AM.

Facility Authorization Narrative

A facility authorization was not evaluated during this investigation.

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 June 3, 2016 at 10:15 AM.

GENERAL FACILITY AND PROCESS INFORMATION

Process Description

Blue Ridge Landfill is a waste disposal facility. Additional information can be found in the Houston Region Office files.

BACKGROUND

Agreed Orders, Court Orders, and Other Compliance Agreements

Based on review of CCEDS and the regional office files, 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, no violations have been issued by the TCEQ to the alleged source during the past five years.

Complaints

Information regarding complaints for this site can be found in the Houston Region file room.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Conclusions, Recommendations, and Current Enforcement Actions

Based on this investigation, no violations are being alleged. The Frequency, Intensity, Duration and Offensiveness (FIDO) chart categorizes the landfill garbage/waste odor as offensive, and the honeysuckle odor can be characterized as not unpleasant. In order to confirm a nuisance, an offensive odor has to last 4 hours with a very strong (VS) intensity as a single occurrence, and a not unpleasant odor has to last more than 12 hours with a monthly frequency. Since the odors did not have a VS intensity and did not last more than 4 hours while the investigators were onsite, a nuisance could not be confirmed according to the FIDO protocol.

Additional Issues

No additional issues were noted during this investigation.

REPORT ATTACHMENTS

- 1.Survey Route Map
- 2.Investigator's Odor Log

BLUE RIDGE LANDFILL - FRESNO

5/26/2016 Inv. # - 1336283

Page 4 of 4

No Violations Associated to this Investigation

Signed



Environmental Investigator

Date 6/24/16

Signed



Supervisor

Date 7-1-2016

Attachments: (in order of final report submittal)

☐ Enforcement Action Request (EAR)

☒ Letter to Facility (specify type) : Complaint

☐ Investigation Report

☐ Sample Analysis Results

☐ Manifests

☐ Notice of Registration

☐ Maps, Plans, Sketches

☐ Photographs

☐ Correspondence from the facility

☒ Other (specify) :

1. Survey Route Map

2. Investigator's Odor Log.

**Attachment 1:
Survey Route Map**

Blue Ridge Landfill TX, LP

FG-0536-E

2200 FM 521 RD, Fresno, TX 77545

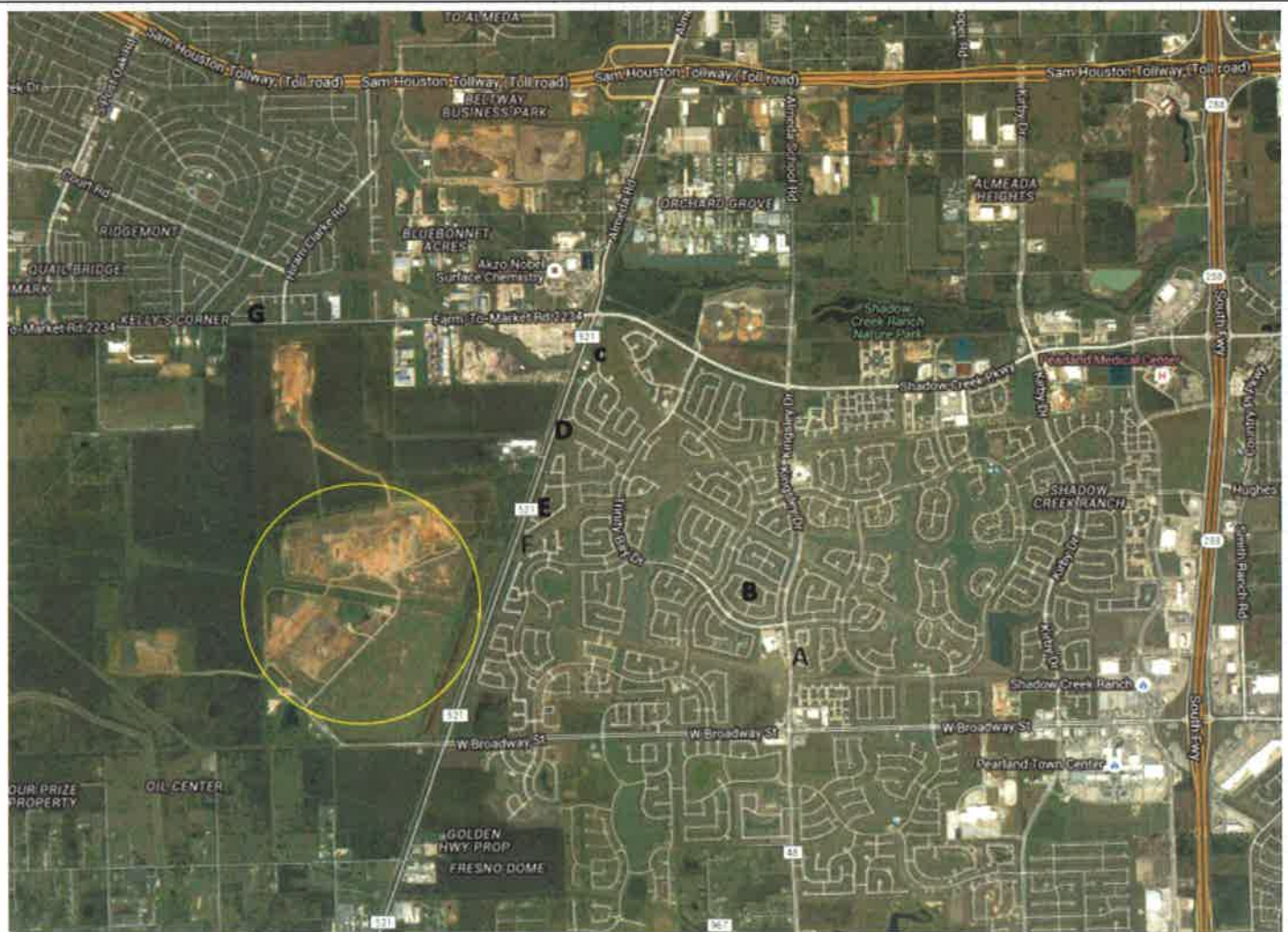
RN 102-610-102

Date: May 26, 2016

Weather

Conditions:	Clear		Partly Cloudy		Cloudy		Overcast		Rain		
Wind Speed:	4 to 8 mph			Wind From: SE		NW	NNW	N	NNE	NE	
Temperature:	81.2 °F					WNW				ENE	
Humidity:	86% RH					W			▲		E
						WSW					ESE
				SW		SSW	S	SSE	SE		

► **Diagram**

Investigation Type: CMPL

Air Account NO: FG 0536 E

Attachment: 1

Page 1 of 1

Attachment 2:
Investigators' Odor Logs

Blue Ridge Landfill TX, LP

FG-0536-E

2200 FM 521 RD, Fresno, TX 77545

RN 102-610-102

Date: May 26, 2016

Investigator's Odor Intensity Time Log

Date of Investigation: 5/26/16 Start Time: 7:32 am
 Name and Address of Alleged Source: Blue Ridge Landfill
 Investigator's Name: Print: A. De Los Santos Sign: AD

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
1 min	M - Landfill smell
2	M - " and honey suckle
3	L
4	M
5	S - Honey Suckle smell
6	M
7	M
8	M - stopped due to rain.
9	S - landfill smell
10	L
11	S - landfill
12	S
13	S - L + HS
14	S - HS
15	S - L + HS
16	L - HS
17	S - L
18	VL - HS
19	L - HS
20	L - HS
21	S - HS
22	M - HS
23	M - HS
24	S - L
25	S - HS
26	M - L
27	S - L
28	M - L
29	M - L
30	L - L

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

7:40 - Rain

L = Landfill
HS = Honey Suckle

No readings

See continuation →

Offensiveness: Highly _____ Offensive X Unpleasant _____ Not Unpleasant _____
 Dominant Odor Intensity For:

	VS	S	M	L	VL	No Odor
1 Min		X				
10 Min		X				
1 Hour			X			

Investigation Type: CMPL

Air Account NO: FG 0536 E

Attachment: 2

Page 1 of 11

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Investigation Type: CWPC
Air Account NO: FG 0536 E
Attachment: 2
Page 2 of 11

Investigator's Odor Intensity Time Log

Date of Investigation: 8/26/16 Start Time 7:42 AM
 Name and Address of Alleged Source: BRL
 Investigator's Name: Print: A. DeLeonardis Sign: [Signature]

Location:
 North of
 BRL on
 Ridgeway Rd.

8:40

1hr

8:50

9:00

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

9:10

9:20

9:30

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

Offensiveness: Highly _____ Offensive X Unpleasant _____ Not Unpleasant _____
 Dominant Odor Intensity For:

2nd hr

	VS	S	M	L	VL	No Odor
1 Min				X		
10 Min					X	
1 Hour				X		

Investigation Type: CMPD

Air Account NO: FG 0536 E

Attachment: 2

Page 3 of 11

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Investigation Type: CMPC

Air Account NO: FG 0536 E

Attachment: 2

Page 4 of 11

Investigator's Odor Intensity Timing

Date of Investigation: 5/26/16 Start Time 7:42 AM
 Name and Address of Alleged Source: BRL
 Investigator's Name: Print: A. Delos Santos Sign: (Signature)

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
1 min	L - L
2	L - L
3	L - L
4	L - L
5	VL - L
6	L - L
7	M - L } Sunny out
8	M - L }
9	L - L
10	VL - L
11	VL - L
12	VL - L
13	VL - L
14	VL - L
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
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	
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55	
56	
57	
58	
59	
60	

Offensiveness: Highly _____ Offensive X Unpleasant _____ Not Unpleasant _____
 Dominant Odor Intensity For:

	VS	S	M	L	VL	No Odor
1 Min				X		
10 Min					X	
1 Hour				X		

Investigation Type: CMPL

Air Account NO: FG 0536 E

Attachment: 2

Page 5 of 11

(3)

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Investigation Type: CMPL

Air Account NO: FG 0536 E

Attachment: 2

Page 6 of 11

Investigator's Odor Intensity Time Log

Date of Investigation: 6/26/14

Start Time 7:33 am

Name and Address of Alleged Source: Landfill (Blue Ridge) - Pearland

Investigator's Name: Print: Yup

Sign: [Signature]

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
1 min	—
2	— light (honey suckle)
3	VL (trash)
4	VL (trash)
5	VL (trash)
6	VL (trash/manure)
7	—
8	VL (strong honey suckle)
9	—
10	—
11	—
12	—
13	—
14	VL
15	—
16	— M landfill
17	M
18	—
19	landfill - M
20	—
21	— VL honey suckle
22	— VL - honey suckle
23	— VL honey suckle
24	— VL honey suckle
25	L - manure
26	VL - manure
27	M - manure/match
28	VL - Manure
29	VL - landfill/honey suckle
30	—

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
31 min	VL - landfill
32	VL - landfill
33	—
34	—
35	—
36	—
37	VL - landfill
38	—
39	L - landfill
40	VL - landfill
41	L - landfill/honey suckle
42	VL - honey suckle
43	VL - honey suckle
44	VL - landfill/honey suckle
45	M - landfill
46	M - landfill w VL honey suckle
47	VL - landfill
48	L Manure
49	VL honey suckle
50	—
51	VL
52	S
53	M
54	M
55	VL (honey suckle trash)
56	VL w/ honey suckle
57	—
58	M
59	VL
60	Honey suckle (strong)

Offensiveness: Highly _____ Offensive ☒ Unpleasant _____ Not Unpleasant _____

Dominant Odor Intensity For:

	VS	S	M	L	VL	No Odor
1 Min			X			
10 Min			X			
1 Hour					X	

Investigation Type: AMPL

Air Account NO: FG0536 E

Attachment: 2

Page 7 of 11

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Investigation Type: CMPL

Air Account NO: FG 0536 E

Attachment: 2

Page 8 of 11

Investigator's Odor Intensity Time Log

Date of Investigation: 5/26/12

Start Time 7:33

Name and Address of Alleged Source: Landfill - Blue Ridge - Pearland

Investigator's Name: Print: Yayma Martinez

Sign: [Signature]

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
1 min 34	VL Landfill
28 35	VL Landfill
37 36	L Landfill
48 37	VL Landfill/honeysuckle
58 38	VL Honeysuckle/Landfill
68 39	VL Honeysuckle
78 40	VL Honeysuckle (bit LF)
88 41	VL Honeysuckle (bit LF)
98 42	VL Honeysuckle
108 43	VL Honeysuckle
118 44	L
128 45	M both same intensity
138 46	VL both
148 47	L both
158 48	VL Honeysuckle
168 49	-
178 50	-
188 51	VL Honeysuckle
198 52	VL
208 53	-
218 54	-
228 55	VL Honeysuckle/LF then
238 56	M - LF Honeysuckle
248 57	VL Honeysuckle/Landfill
258 58	VL - Landfill
268 59	VL - LF
279 00	VL - Landfill
28 01	VL - Landfill
29 02	L - Landfill
30 03	L - Landfill

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
31 min 04	VL Landfill
32 05	- L Honeysuckle
33 06	- VL - LF/honeysuckle
34 07	- VL - LF
35 08	- L - LF
36 09	- VL - Honeysuckle
37 10	- VL - LF/honeysuckle
38 11	- M Landfill
39 12	M - Landfill
40 13	M - Landfill
41 14	L - Landfill/honeysuckle
42 15	L - Landfill/honeysuckle
43 16	VL - Honeysuckle
44 17	VL - Landfill
45 18	VL - Landfill/honeysuckle
46 19	VL - Honeysuckle
47 20	VL - Honeysuckle/LF SE 3 mph
48 21	VL - Honeysuckle/LF
49 22	L - Honeysuckle
50 23	VL - Honeysuckle
51 24	VL - LF/honeysuckle
52 25	VL - Honeysuckle
53 26	VL - Honeysuckle/LF
54 27	L - Honeysuckle
55 28	VL - LF
56 29	VL - LF
57 30	VL - Honeysuckle/LF
58 31	VL - LF
59 32	VL - LF
60 33	VL - LF

Offensiveness: Highly _____ Offensive X Unpleasant _____ Not Unpleasant _____

Dominant Odor Intensity For:

	VS	S	M	L	VL	No Odor
1 Min					X	
10 Min					X	
1 Hour					X	

Investigation Type: CMDL

Air Account NO: FG 0536 E

Attachment: 2

Page 9 of 11

2 of 3

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Investigation Type: CWPC

Air Account NO: FG 0536 E

Attachment: 2

Page 10 of 11

Investigator's Odor Intensity Time Log

Date of Investigation: 5/26/16

Start Time: 7:33 am

Name and Address of Alleged Source: Landfill (Blue Ridge) Pearland

Investigator's Name: Print: Yayra Montero

Sign: [Signature]

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
1 min 9:34	VL-LF
2 9:35	L-LF
3 9:36	VL-LF
4 9:37	VL-LF
5 9:38	VL-LF
6 9:39	L-LF
7 9:40	M-LF
8 9:41	M-LF
9 9:42	L-LF
10 9:43	L-LF
11 9:44	L-LF
12 9:45	VL-LF
13 9:46	L-LF
14 9:47	
15 9:48	
16 9:49	
17 9:50	
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29	
30	

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
31 min	
32	
33	
34	
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Offensiveness: Highly _____ Offensive X Unpleasant _____ Not Unpleasant _____

Dominant Odor Intensity For:

	VS	S	M	L	VL	No Odor
1 Min					X	
10 Min					X	
1 Hour					X	

Investigation Type: ALPCL

Air Account NO: FG 0536 E

Attachment: 2

Page 11 of 11

P3 of 3