

Air CP_104046545_CP_20160707_INVESTIGATION_1343968_
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Investigation Report

The TCEQ is committed to accessibility. If you need assistance in accessing this document, please contact oce@tceq.texas.gov

Customer: Generic Incident Principal
Customer Number: CN602295370

Regulated Entity Name: GENERIC INCIDENT ZIP CODE 77584

Regulated Entity Number: RN104046545

Investigation # 1343968	Incident Numbers 236669
Investigator: JONATHAN STOFFER	Site Classification
Conducted: 07/07/2016 -- 07/07/2016	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
Supervisor	WARDA OMAR
QA Reviewer	JESSICA FOX

Associated Check List

<u>Checklist Name</u>	<u>Unit Name</u>
AIR INVESTIGATION - EQUIPMENT MONITORING AND SAMPLING revised 06/2013	Sitewide
AIR COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION	Sitewide

Investigation Comments:

Introduction

On June 28, June 29, June 30 and July 1, 2016, TCEQ received twenty-nine (29) complaints by telephone and e-mail regarding strong odors in the vicinity of Shadow Creek Ranch neighborhood in Pearland, Texas. The complaints were documented in TCEQ incident #236669.

Complainants were contacted via telephone and email by Mr. Jonathan Stoffer on June 30, 2016 and July 5, 2016.

All complainants alleged the presence of very strong chemical and/or garbage odors either in the early morning (12:00 through 7:00 am). According to the complainants, the odors have allegedly occurred intermittently, throughout the week. The majority of complainants stated that the source of the odor is Blue Ridge Landfill (BRL), located at 2200 Farm to Market (FM) 521 road, and/or an unspecified chemical plant. One complainant expressed concerns that the temporary landfill caps used on out of service portions of the landfill were not engineered correctly. Several complainants claimed various health effects such as nausea, headaches, eye irritation and breathing irritation, while others only concern for their health.

An area map is in Attachment 1. Focus areas are indicated by red squares.

Investigation Narrative

On July 7, 2016, TCEQ investigators Mr. Jonathan Stoffer and Mr. Cameron Dews arrived at the vicinity of the alleged sources. The surrounding land use is a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial areas. The terrain is flat with sporadic forest. Meteorological conditions for the alleged incident dates and investigation dates are as follows:

Meteorological conditions June 28, 2016 (alleged incident date)

Cloud Cover: Clear

Wind Direction: West

Wind Speed: 0 miles per hour

Temperature: 77° Fahrenheit

Precipitation: 0.00 in

Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

Meteorological conditions June 29, 2016 (alleged incident date)

Cloud Cover: Cloudy

Wind Direction: West

Wind Speed: 2 miles per hour

Temperature: 71° Fahrenheit

Precipitation: 0.00 in

Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

Meteorological conditions June 30, 2016 (alleged incident date)

Cloud Cover: Cloudy

Wind Direction: West

Wind Speed: 3 miles per hour

Temperature: 77° Fahrenheit

Precipitation: 0.00 in

Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

Meteorological conditions July 1, 2016 (alleged incident date)

Cloud Cover: Cloudy

Wind Direction: West

Wind Speed: 2 miles per hour

Temperature: 77° Fahrenheit

Precipitation: 0.00 in

Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

In order to identify the most probable source and to determine whether a nuisance condition existed, the investigators conducted odor logs at various points near BRL at a distance that was approximately equidistant to the complainants' locations from the alleged source. Odors were assessed for frequency, intensity, duration, and offensiveness.

At 5:15 a.m., investigators Mr. Stoffer and Mr. Dews arrived in the Shadow Creek Ranch subdivision near the intersection of FM 2234 road and FM 521 road. The investigators started with a perimeter survey along Shadow Creek Parkway, Alameda Road, and West Broadway Street (See attachment 3 – odor survey maps). Along Alameda Road, the investigators detected a light honeysuckle odor, which was determined to be the landfill odor control. The investigators stopped for several minutes, but the odor dissipated soon after stopping. The investigators

determined the wind was blowing from the south using a Kestrel 4500. The investigators left the area at 5:30 a.m.

At 5:37 a.m., the investigators drove north of the landfill to McHard Road to just before the road meets Sidonie Drive. There, the light odor of garbage and honeysuckle was detected again. A short odor survey was conducted (See attachment 4). During the survey there was a 3.5 mph wind from the south and the temperature was 85° Fahrenheit. Light odors were detected which dissipated after about 5 minutes. The investigators left the area at 5:47 p.m.

At 5:48 a.m., the investigators experienced a petroleum odor near East Rippleridge Drive and McHard Road. The investigators characterized the odor as offensive based on experience, training, and the examples on the TCEQ FIDO chart. A second short odor survey was conducted (See attachment 4). During the survey the wind had mostly stopped and the temperature was 81.5° Fahrenheit. A light to moderate odor was detected which dissipated after about 12 minutes. The investigators left at the site at 5:55 a.m.

At 6:00 a.m., the investigators conducted a survey along West Sam Houston Parkway South. Near Antioch Drive, the landfill odor was detected again at light to moderate intensity. The odor persisted along the road until about half a mile from Farm to Market 521. After the landfill odor dissipated a moderate petroleum odor was detected again. The oil odor persisted until the investigators reached Farm to Market 521. The investigators left at the area at 6:05 a.m. The investigators characterized both odors as offensive based on experience, training, and the examples on the TCEQ FIDO chart.

At 6:09 a.m., the investigators conducted a survey of Cambridge Bay Drive. A light bitter odor was detected in the area. The odor may have come from the trees in the area. The investigators could not determine what the odor was. The investigators left at the area at 6:17 a.m.

At 6:20 a.m., the investigators conducted a survey of the north side of Arcadia Bay Drive, Night Song Drive and Mountain Sage Drive. No odor was detected in the area. The investigators left at the area at 6:26 a.m.

At 6:28 a.m., the investigators conducted a survey of the south side of Arcadia Bay Drive. No odor was detected in the area. The investigators left at the area at 6:30 a.m.

At 6:31 a.m., the investigators conducted a survey of the east side of Windward Bay Drive. No odor was detected in the area. The investigators left at the area at 6:33 a.m.

At 6:34 a.m., the investigators conducted a survey of Kingsley Drive. No odor was detected in the area. The investigators left at the area at 6:37 a.m.

At 6:40 a.m., the investigators conducted a survey of Kirby Drive, Emerald Bay Drive and Sapphire Bay Drive. No odor was detected in the area. The investigators left at the area at 6:46 a.m.

At 6:50 a.m., the investigators conducted a survey of Hannover Heights Lane. No odor was detected in the area. The investigators left at the area at 6:55 a.m.

During the investigation, there was a northerly wind. The strongest odors were landfill and oil odors, characterized as "offensive", at moderate intensity north of the BRL. The odors generally dissipated after several minutes. A single occurrence nuisance for an offensive odor must be very strong for four hours or strong for 12 hours in order to constitute a nuisance under the Frequency, Intensity, Duration, and Offensiveness (FIDO) chart. At the time of the investigation a nuisance could not be confirmed.

Facility Authorization Narrative

The investigators conducted a general area survey. The investigators did not enter any facilities because the facilities could not be identified as sources of the odor. Therefore, no site visit was conducted.

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

N/A

BACKGROUND

Agreed Orders, Court Orders, and Other Compliance Agreements

N/A

Prior Enforcement Issues

N/A

Complaints

Based on a review of CCEDS during the past five years, there have been hundreds of odor complaints received and other investigations are being conducted by the Region 12 Office concurrently.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Conclusions, Recommendations, and Current Enforcement Actions

Based on the TCEQ's Odor Complaint Investigation Procedures and application of the FIDO Chart, an "offensive" odor with an intensity of "moderate" would have to be present on a daily basis continuously for at least 10 minutes to constitute a nuisance. Although the investigators detected an offensive odor, it did not meet the criteria for frequency or duration to constitute a nuisance condition and the source of odor could not be confirmed at the time.

Additional Issues

No additional issues were noted during this investigation.

REPORT ATTACHMENTS

1. Area Map
2. Investigators' Odor Logs
3. Odor Survey Route Maps
4. TCEQ Odor Investigation Checklist

No Violations Associated to this Investigation

Signed

Jonathan Steffen
Environmental Investigator

Date

10/7/2016

Signed

[Signature]

Supervisor

Date

10/10/2016

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 1

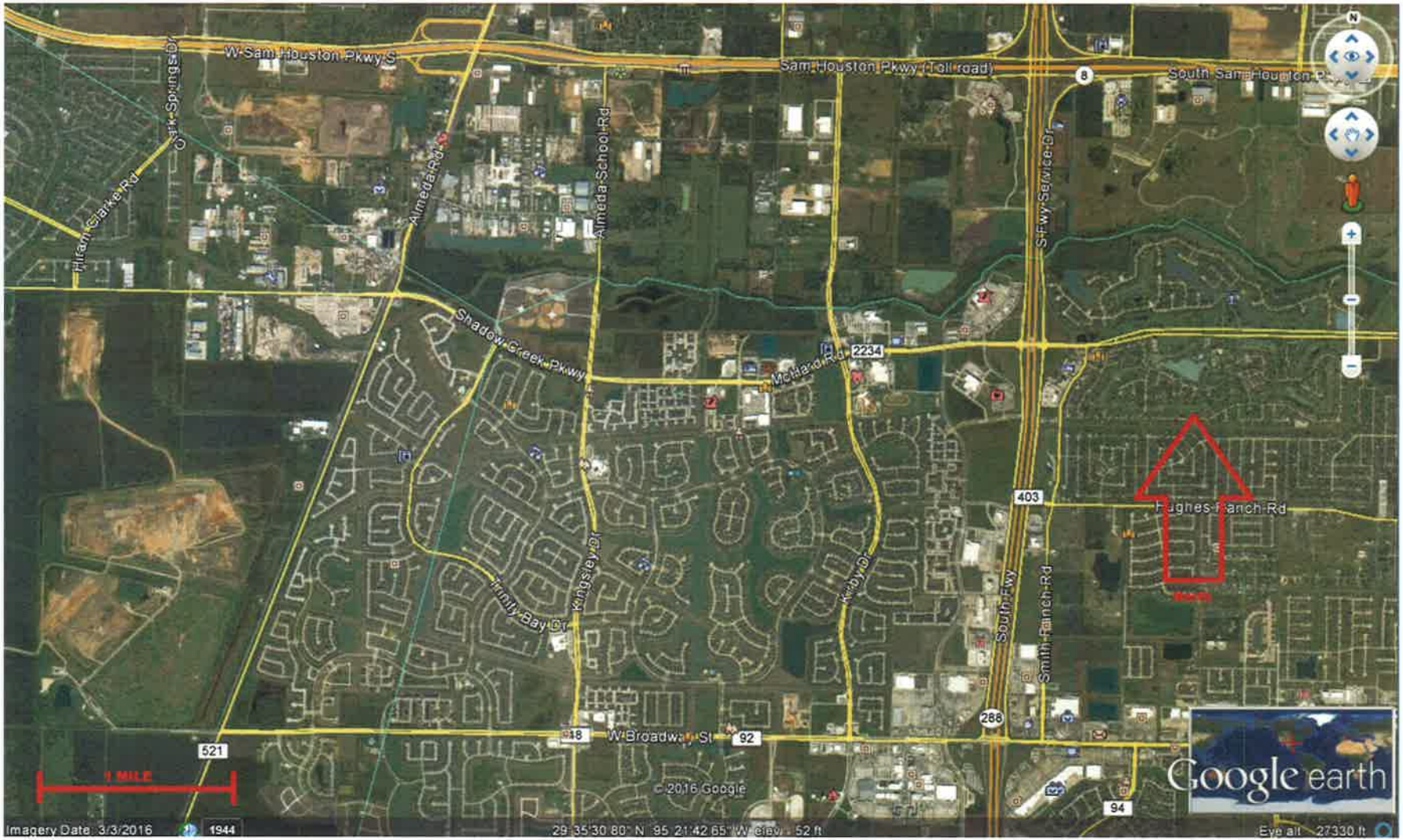
Area Map

ACCOUNT # N/A

RN # 104-046-545

PEARLAND / HARRIS

7/11/2016



Area Map

Shadow Creek Ranch, Pearland, TX

Investigation Type: Comp
Air Account NO: NA
Attachment: 1
Page 1 of 1

Attachment 2

Investigators' Odor Logs

ACCOUNT # N/A

RN # 104-046-545

PEARLAND / HARRIS

7/11/2016

Investigator's Odor Intensity Time Log

Date of Investigation: 6/7/2016 Start Time 5:37

Name and Address of Alleged Source: Blue Ridge Landfill

Investigator's Name: Print: Jon Stotter Sign: Jon Stotter

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
1 min	L
2	L
3	VL
4	L
5	VL
6	—
7	—
8	—
9	—
10	—
11	
12	
13	
14	
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	
45	
46	
47	
48	
49	
50	
51	
52	
53	
54	Investigation Type <u>Comp</u>
55	Air Account NO: <u>NA</u>
56	Attachment: <u>2</u>
57	Page <u>1</u> of <u>3</u>
58	
59	
60	

Offensiveness: Highly _____ Offensive X Unpleasant _____ Not Unpleasant _____

Dominant Odor Intensity For:

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

Blank

Investigation Type: Comp
Air Account NO: NA
Attachment: 2
Page 2 of 3

Investigator's Odor Intensity Time Log

Date of Investigation: 6/17/2026 Start Time 5:48
 Name and Address of Alleged Source: Blue Ridge Landfill
 Investigator's Name: Print: Jon Stoffer Sign: Jon Stoffer

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
1 min	M
2	M
3	-
4	L
5	VL
6	M
7	L
8	L
9	L
10	M
11	L
12	VL
13	-
14	L
15	L
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	
45	
46	
47	
48	
49	
50	
51	
52	
53	
54	
55	
56	
57	
58	
59	
60	

Investigation Type: Comp
 Air Account NO: NA
 Attachment: 2
 Page 3 of 3

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

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

Attachment 3

Odor Survey Route Maps

ACCOUNT # N/A

RN # 104-046-545

PEARLAND / HARRIS

7/11/2016

Odor Survey Route Map

Weather

Conditions:	Clear	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Overcast	Rain			
Wind Speed:	3.5 mph		Wind From: S	NW	NNW	N	NNE	NE
Temperature:	81.5 °F			WNW				E
Humidity:	78% RH			W		▲		E
				WSW		↑		ESE
				SW	SSW	S	SSE	SE

► Diagram



Investigation Type: Comp
Air Account NO: NA
Attachment: 3
Page 1 **of** 1

Attachment 4

TCEQ Odor Investigation Checklist

ACCOUNT # N/A

RN # 104-046-545

PEARLAND / HARRIS

7/11/2016

TCEQ- ODOR INVESTIGATION CHECKLIST

Investigators Name: Jonathan Stoffer

Investigation Date: 7/7/2016

SITE INFORMATION

Regulated Entity: N/A

Address/Location: Shadow Creek Ranch

Regulated Entity No.: 104-046-545

HEALTH EFFECTS

INVESTIGATOR (During Investigation):

- Nausea Headache Irritation: (Skin Eyes Nose Throat)
 Dizziness Breathing Difficulty
 Other _____

COMMENTS:

Investigation Type: Comp
Air Account NO: NA
Attachment: 4
Page 1 of 2

COMPLAINANT (historical):

- Nausea Headache Irritation: (Skin Eyes Nose Throat)
 Dizziness Breathing Difficulty
 Other _____

COMMENTS:

See Report

NUISANCE ODORS

Odor Detected: Yes No (if no, skip to Narrative)

ODOR OFFENSIVENESS:

Highly Offensive Offensive Unpleasant Not unpleasant

TYPE/DESCRIPTION OF ODOR:

Odor was similar to oil, garbage and honeysuckle.

Investigation Type: COMP
 Air Account NO: N/A
 Attachment: 4
 Page 2 of 2

ODOR INTENSITY

Dominant Odor Intensity For:

	Very Strong	Strong	Medium	Light	Very Light	N/A
1 Min.			X			
10 Min.				X		
1 Hr.					X	

ODOR FREQUENCY:

Single Event	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Quarterly
		X		

NARRATIVE

Complainant Odor Log given to complainant: YES NO

Complainant Odor Log attached: YES NO

COMPLAINANT COMMENTS:

INVESTIGATOR COMMENTS: