

AIR CP\_104046545\_CP\_20160721\_Investigation\_1349785\_  
**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**  
**Investigation Report**

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**Customer: Generic Incident Principal**  
**Customer Number: CN602295370**

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

**Regulated Entity Number: RN104046545**

**Investigation #** 1349785

**Incident Numbers**

239185

**Investigator:** LEANN KINCAID

**Site Classification**

**Conducted:** 07/21/2016 -- 07/21/2016

**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

SAMUEL JIRASEK

QA Reviewer

RACHEL PRICE

Supervisor

CORBETT BRINLY

**Associated Check List**

**Checklist Name**

AIR COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

**Unit Name**

Shadow Creek Ranch

**Investigation Comments:**

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

On July 16, 2016, at approximately 6:24 AM, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Houston Regional Office received an odor complaint via email (Incident # 239185). The complainant alleged there was a "foul odor of rotten eggs and sewer" detected inside their home, and named Blue Ridge Landfill (Blue Ridge) as the alleged source. The odor was observed by the complainant at approximately 6:20 AM.

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An additional odor complaint was received by TCEQ on July 16, 2016, at approximately 6:39 AM, via email, from the same complainant. The complainant stated the "foul odor of rotten eggs" was detected on July 15, 2016, at approximately 5:50 AM, while driving northbound on Highway 521 past West Orem Road. The complainant stated the odor had been present consistently at that time for four (4) days (since July 12, 2016). The complainant was unsure of the source, but thought it could be from a nearby landfill.

Meteorological conditions during the alleged incident (July 15, 2016) were:

Cloud Cover: Partly Cloudy

Wind direction: South southeast

Wind Speed: 0.0 miles per hour

Temperature: 78.1 °F

Precipitation: 0.00 inches

Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (Station ID: KTXPEARL56)

Meteorological conditions during the alleged incident (July 16, 2016) were:

Cloud Cover: Partly Cloudy

Wind direction: West

Wind Speed: 0.0 miles per hour

Temperature: 76.5 °F

Precipitation: 0.00 inches

Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (Station ID: KTXPEARL56)

An attempt to contact the complainant was made by telephone on July 20, 2016, at 11:12 AM. The investigator left a message.

On July 17, 2016, at approximately 4:46 PM, the TCEQ Houston Region Office received an additional odor complaint (also under Incident # 239185) via email. The complainant alleged that an "acrid odor" was present that was strong enough to irritate the eyes and nose. The odor was observed by the complainant at approximately 4:30 PM. The complainant was unsure of the source.

Meteorological conditions during the alleged incident (July 17, 2016) were:

Cloud Cover: Cloudy

Wind direction: Northwest

Wind Speed: 3.2 miles per hour

Temperature: 86.5 °F

Precipitation: 0.04 inches

Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (Station ID: KTXPEARL56)

An attempt to contact the complainant was made by telephone on July 20, 2016, at 11:17 AM. The investigator left a message.

On July 18, 2016, at approximately 3:19 AM, the TCEQ Houston Region Office received an additional odor complaint (also under Incident # 239185) via email. The complainant alleged that a smell had been occurring for about 3 days, which seemed to start around 7:30 PM, and last throughout the night. The complainant wondered if there was a gas leak, and contacted their gas company. According to the complainant, the gas company found no leak and said the source of the odor could be some sort of chemical. The complaint was submitted anonymously.

Meteorological conditions during the alleged incident (July 18, 2016) were:

Cloud Cover: Cloudy

Wind direction: South

Wind Speed: 0.0 miles per hour

Temperature: 78.3 °F

Precipitation: 1.01 inches

Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (Station ID: KTXPEARL56)

On July 19, 2016, at approximately 8:12 AM, the TCEQ Houston Region Office received an additional odor complaint (also under Incident # 239185) via email. The complainant alleged there was a "pungent odor" noticed around 4:00 AM and believes the source is Blue Ridge. The complainant also stated that they reported the

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complaint to the City of Pearland.

Meteorological conditions during the alleged incident (July 19, 2016) were:

Cloud Cover: Cloudy

Wind direction: Southwest

Wind Speed: 0.0 miles per hour

Temperature: 77.4 °F

Precipitation: 0.13 inches

Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (Station ID: KTXPEARL56)

The complainant was contacted via telephone on July 20, 2016, at 11:19 AM. The complainant stated that on the day of the alleged incident, they noticed the odor at about midnight (12:00 AM). The complainant said this occurrence differed from normal occurrences, which are noticed at about 3:00 AM. The complainant stated the odor was not detected last night (night of July 19, 2016), but was definitely present the night before (late July 18 to early July 19, 2016). The odor was described as a "methane or sulfur" smell, and it was "very strong." The complainant believes the source is Blue Ridge. The complainant was informed that the investigator would be conducting their investigation on July 21, 2016 between 5:30 AM and 6:00 AM.

On July 19, 2016, at approximately 8:44 AM, the TCEQ Houston Region Office received an additional odor complaint (also under Incident # 239185) via telephone. The complainant alleged there was a reoccurring odor present at Shadow Creek Ranch. The complainant stated the odor was absent since the end of June, but reappeared at 3:00 AM, on July 19, 2016. According to the complainant, the odor was still present as the complaint was being reported. The complainant said odor was strongest in the garage and in the house while the air condition unit was running. The complainant described the odor as an "intense gas smell." The complainant said they could not exactly describe the odor, but knew it did not smell like gasoline, but it was chemical in nature.

The complainant was contacted via telephone on July 20, 2016, at 11:46 AM. The complainant said a very intense odor was detected at about 3:00 AM on July 19, 2016. The complainant said the odor was strong enough to wake them. The complainant stated that no odor was present by the evening of July 19, 2016. The complainant stated they were concerned there may be a gas leak and contacted CenterPoint Energy, who sent a technician to the complainant's home. The complainant indicated that a technician tested for a natural gas leak and none was found. According to the complainant, both the complainant and the technician felt that the odor did not smell like garbage. The complainant was unsure of the source but does not believe the alleged source is the nearby landfill. The complainant was very concerned with the frequency of these odor occurrences. The complainant was informed that the investigator would be conducting their investigation on July 21, 2016 between 5:30 AM and 6:00 AM.

On July 19, 2016, at approximately 10:17 AM, the TCEQ Houston Region Office received an additional odor complaint (also under Incident # 239185) by telephone. The complainant alleged that a reoccurring odor, which had been absent for a few weeks, had returned on Saturday, July 16, 2016, at about 3:00 AM. The complainant noticed the odor on Sunday, July 17, 2016, from about 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM, and again on morning of the report filing (July 19, 2016) at about 2:00 AM. The complainant thought the Sunday occurrence was peculiar because the odor was present during the afternoon and not early morning. The odor was described as a "pungent mix of chemicals and trash that permeates their house and clothing."

The complainant was contacted by telephone on July 20, 2016, at 12:04 PM; however, the complainant could not discuss the matter at that time, and said they would call the investigator at a later time.

The onsite portion of the investigation occurred on July 21, 2016 at 5:45 AM. A map of source location is included in Attachment 1.

**Investigation Narrative**

Meteorological conditions during the investigation (July 21, 2016) were:

Cloud Cover: Partly Cloudy

Wind direction: South southeast

Wind Speed: 0.0 miles per hour

Temperature: 76.1 °F

Precipitation: 0.00 inches

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Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (Station ID: KTXPEARL56)

On July 21, 2016, at 5:45 AM TCEQ investigators, Ms. LeAnn Kincaid and Mr. Samuel Jirasek, arrived at the northeast corner of Highway (Hwy) 288 and McHard Road, where a moderate odor was detected. The odor smelled of butanol and lasted less than approximately five (5) seconds. The investigators waited approximately 5 minutes to see if the odor would return, but it did not. There was no wind present at this time. The investigators headed west to get closer to the alleged source at approximately 5:51 AM.

As the investigators approached the intersection of Hwy 521 and McHard Road, at approximately 5:55 AM, a light to moderate odor, similar to butanol, but slightly sweet, was observed. The investigators continued west on McHard Road and as they passed McIntyre Lane, they noticed a completely different odor, lighter in intensity than the previous odor. This smelled of machinery oil and rubber, and was slightly metallic. The investigators then smelled rotting produce before they reached West Drive; after which, no odor was present. At approximately 6:02 AM, the investigators used the intersection of East Rippleridge Drive and South Ridgewalk Drive to turn around.

The investigators headed east on McHard Road and noticed a light, garbage-like odor as they passed Rolls-Royce Energy Systems, at approximately 6:06 AM. The investigators stopped at 210 McIntyre Lane. By the time the investigators parked, the odor was no longer detectable and it did not return before the investigators left at 6:12 AM. The investigators continued east on McHard Road and turned south on Hwy 521.

At approximately 6:28 AM, the investigators smelled something similar to butanol but slightly sweet near the intersection of Hwy 521 and McHard Road, and parked at the Gate 7 entrance of Akzo Nobel Surface Chemical (Akzo Nobel). The odor was no longer detectable by the time the investigators exited the vehicle. The investigators waited. At approximately 6:30 AM, the investigators noted the windsock onsite showed a very light breeze coming from the north. The investigators continued to wait to see if the odor would return, but again, it did not. The investigators headed north on Hwy 521 at 6:34 AM in search of a potential source.

At approximately 6:38 AM, the investigators drove east on Alameda-Genoa Road. No odors were detected so the investigators headed back to Akzo Nobel.

The investigators returned to the Gate 7 entrance of Akzo Nobel at approximately 6:45 AM. No odors were detected. The investigators again waited in case the odors would return. At 6:54 AM, the investigators left Shadow Creek Ranch.

On July 21, 2016, at approximately 8:36 AM, the TCEQ Houston Regional Office received an additional odor complaint via telephone (also under Incident # 239185). The complainant alleged that the smell of "trash and debris" was so strong that it woke them around 7:00 AM (on July 21, 2016). The complainant stated the odor lasted about an hour and believes the alleged source is Blue Ridge.

Meteorological conditions during the alleged incident (July 21, 2016) were:

Cloud Cover: Partly Cloudy

Wind direction: South

Wind Speed: 0.0 miles per hour

Temperature: 76.3 °F

Precipitation: 0.00 inches

Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (Station ID: KTXPEARL56)

An attempt to contact the complainant was made by telephone on July 21, 2016, at 4:47 PM. The investigator left a message.

On July 21, 2016, at approximately 12:45 PM, the TCEQ Houston Regional Office received an additional odor complaint via email (also under Incident # 239185). The complainant alleged that around midnight (12:00 AM) on July 21, 2016, they smelled an odor described as "pig-smell" and "rotten waste." The complainant stated the odor was even worse when the wind blows. The complainant believes the source is a nearby landfill.

An attempt to contact the complainant was made by telephone on July 21, 2016, at 4:54 PM. The investigator left a message.

Facility Authorization Narrative

The actual source of the odors could not be determined 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 phone with the results of the investigation on July 21, 2016 between 8:34 AM and 4:55 PM.

GENERAL FACILITY AND PROCESS INFORMATION

Process Description

An actual source was not identified during the course of this investigation.

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. Area Map and Survey Route

**No Violations Associated to this Investigation**

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

Date 10/14/16

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

Date 10-17-2016

**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 ATTACHMENTS
-

**Attachment 1: Area Map & Survey Route**

**Odor Complaint**

**Site: Generic Incident Zip Code 77584**

**RN 104-046-545**

**Date: July 21, 2016**

# Attachment 1: AREA MAP & SURVEY ROUTE

Odor Complaint  
Generic Incident Zip Code 77584  
Pearland, Texas 77584  
RN 104-046-545



Denotes the location of the alleged source



Denotes the location where investigators checked for odor presence



Investigation Type: CMPL  
Air Account NO: RN 104-046-545  
Attachment: 1  
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