

AIR CP_102610102_CP_20160929_INVESTIGATION_1364506_
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 # 1364506	Incident Numbers 244665
Investigator: REGINA RHODA	Site Classification MAJOR SOURCE
Conducted: 09/09/2016 -- 09/29/2016	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 CONTACT	ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER	MR BURGESS STENGL		
REGULATED ENTITY MAIL CONTACT	LANDFILL OPERATIONS MANAGER	MR MATT MONTAGNA	Office Fax Work	(281) 668-9739 (281) 835-6146 (713) 676-7664

Other Staff Member(s):

Role	Name
Investigator	KATELYN MEHRINGER
Investigator	MARIE POPE
QA Reviewer	LETASHA MILLER
Supervisor	LETASHA MILLER

Associated Check List

<u>Checklist Name</u>	<u>Unit Name</u>
AIR COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION	site wide

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Investigation Comments:

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

On September 23, 2016 through September 29, 2016, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) received 29 complaints from 26 complainants (complaint incident no 244665) via email and phone. The complainants alleged recurring incidents of foul odors that were described as: strong garbage, a bad chemical, an odor of rotten eggs, ammonia gas, sewage, trash, and rotting flesh. The complainants alleged that the smells permeate the houses but are stronger outside the houses, mostly at night, between the hours of 11:00 pm and 7:00 am diminishing after sunrise. The complainants alleged the source to be Blue Ridge Landfill located on FM 521, Pearland. Health effects alleged by some complainants are: nausea, headaches, light headedness, stinging in eyes, and/or coughing during these episodes. The complainants also alleged of not being able to go outside because the smell is so bad.

The meteorological conditions during the incident on September 29, 2016 at 5:53 am was about 70 degrees Fahrenheit (F), with calm or no wind and no precipitation as documented by Weather Underground for KLVJ.

Investigation Narrative

On September 29, 2016, Ms. Regina Rhoda, Ms. Marie Pope and Ms. Katelyn Mehringer of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Houston Region Office conducted an odor survey in the Shadow Creek Ranch Subdivision, in Pearland, and in Fort Bend, Brazoria, and Harris counties surrounding the vicinity of Shadow Creek Ranch in response to citizen complaints of odors (see Attachment #1 Area Map). The surrounding land use is a mix of residential, industrial and commercial areas. The terrain is flat with sporadic forest. The temperature at 5:12 am was 70.6 degrees Fahrenheit (F), 79% humidity with calm or no wind and no precipitation as measured by the Kestrel portable weather monitor, model 4500.

The investigators surveyed several streets within the Shadow Creek Ranch subdivision. (See Attachments #2 Survey Route Map) At 5:20 am, the investigators detected an acrid smell and something burning at the intersection of Trinity Bay and Twilight Bay Dr. An odor log was attempted but the smell was gone in 5 minutes.

At 5:22 am the investigators detected a light smell of hot tar, at the intersection of Lost Creek Drive and Laurel Loch but the odor was not persistent.

At 5:41 am the investigators drove south along FM 521 east of Blue Ridge Landfill. A smell like garbage with a flowery deodorizer was detected. The odor quickly diminished and was gone in 5 minutes. (See Attachment 3 Investigator's Odor Log) According to the TCEQ Frequency, Intensity, Duration, and Offensiveness (FIDO) chart, the landfill garbage/waste is characterized as an offensive odor. During the investigation, the strongest landfill garbage odor was moderate for one minute and light to very light for 4 minutes. To be considered a nuisance, a strong odor as a single occurrence has to be persistent for 12 hours. The odor experienced by the investigators did not fulfill the requirements for a nuisance.

At 6:25 am the investigators drove north on FM 521. A light garbage and flowery smell was noted but was not persistent.

The investigators drove around several streets in the subdivision then drove south on FM 521 toward Fresno and Nalco but no odors were noted. The investigators drove west on McHard Rd, west of FM 521 to Green Valley Estates subdivision. No odors were noted.

At 7:34 am the investigators drove around the roads surrounding Lone Star Recycling and Disposal Facility, at 4107 South Sam Houston Parkway West, Houston, TX 77053. No odors were noted.

Facility Authorization Narrative

Blue Ridge Landfill is a municipal solid waste landfill with a landfill gas collection and control system authorized under Federal Operating Permit (FOP) O-01472 renewed on March 3, 2016. A permit review was not conducted for this investigation.

Exit Interview

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An exit interview was not conducted since there were no alleged violations, additional issues, or records requested.

The complainants were contacted by email or USPS with the results of the investigation on October 18, 2016.

GENERAL FACILITY AND PROCESS INFORMATION

Process Description

Blue Ridge Landfill is a municipal solid waste landfill with a landfill gas collection and control system.

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, violations were issued by the TCEQ to the alleged source during the past five years. There are no repeat violations.

Complaints

Based on a review of CCEDS during the past five years, there were numerous complaints received and investigated by the Region 12 Office. [Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) investigations (Investigation #s: 1341981, 1337197, 1335255, 1329398, 1300533, 1202720, 1295889, and 1259322) issued violations. See violation tracking numbers (VTNs) 598524, 596605, 595903 and 585761.]

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
2. Survey Route Map
3. Investigator's Odor Log

No Violations Associated to this Investigation

Signed Regina Rhoda
Environmental Investigator

Date 10/18/2016

Signed Latasha Miller
Supervisor

Date 10/18/16

Attachments: (in order of final report submittal)

Enforcement Action Request (EAR)

Maps, Plans, Sketches

Letter to Facility (specify type) : Gen Compliance

Photographs

Investigation Report

Correspondence from the facility

Sample Analysis Results

Other (specify) :

Manifests

See list of Report

Notice of Registration

Attachments