

AIR CP_104046545_CP_20160328_INVESTIGATION_1323344_
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Investigation Report

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Customer: Generic Incident Principal
Customer Number: CN602295370

Regulated Entity Name: GENERIC INCIDENT ZIP CODE 77584

Regulated Entity Number: RN104046545

Investigation # 1323344

Incident Numbers

229418

Investigator: JESSICA FOX

Site Classification

Conducted: 03/28/2016 -- 03/28/2016

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

QA Reviewer

WARDA OMAR

Investigator

JOHN BREGGER

Investigator

ROBERT MCLEOD

Supervisor

WARDA OMAR

Investigator

CAMERON DEWS

Associated Check List

Checklist Name

AIR COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

Unit Name

Area wide

Investigation Comments:

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

From March 21, 2016 through March 28, 2016 the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Houston

3/28/2016 Inv. # - 1323344

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Regional Office received seven complaints as part of the ongoing complaint investigation of various odors near the Shadow Creek neighborhood in the City of Pearland, Brazoria and Ft. Bend counties of Texas. Six of the complaints were received by email and one by phone. The TCEQ Incident number associated with this complaint investigation is 229418.

The complainants stated that there were odors in the area that were intermittent but have been going on for a long time. Most of the complainants stated that they did not know where the odor was coming from, though two of the complainants alleged the odors could be coming from the Blue Ridge Landfill or chemical plants in the vicinity such as Akzo Nobel. Descriptions of the odor were: gas and gaseous exhaust similar to gasoline, rotten eggs, and garbage. The complainants described the odors as "burning, chemical in nature", "acrid", "putrid". One complainant alleged that the odor stung the nose and eyes. One complainant was concerned about toxicity due to being pregnant, and another was concerned about the health of their children. One complainant stated that it was affecting their sleep and their ability to do their work.

The complaint was assigned to the investigator, Ms. Jessica Fox, on March 25, 2016.

Investigation Narrative

On March 28, 2016, TCEQ Investigators Ms. Jessica Fox, Mr. Kevin McLeod, Mr. John Bregger, and Mr. Cameron Dews conducted an odor survey investigation of the area and potential sources.

The investigators arrived at Location 1 (refer to Attachment 1) at 6:00 AM. Investigators detected a 'very light' to 'light' ether/acetone smell along the facility fenceline, but the odor was not of sufficient frequency, intensity, duration, and offensiveness to confirm a nuisance condition. The investigators surveyed the Akzo Nobel fenceline along the indicated route for an additional 15 minutes without detecting additional odors. The investigators left the location at 6:24 AM.

Investigators drove south along FM 521/Alameda Road, and did not detect any odors. Next, the investigators drove east along West Broadway Street and turned north onto Kingsley Drive. The investigators then turned east on Shadow Creek Parkway.

While driving east along Shadow Creek Parkway, the investigators detected a 'moderate' mercaptan odor (categorized as 'highly offensive' in the TCEQ FIDO procedure) along the bridge over the Clear Creek Relief channel. The investigators arrived at Location 2 at 7:05 AM. The investigators walked along Shadow Creek Parkway to the banks of the channel without detecting additional odors. The investigators left the location at 7:35 AM.

The investigators drove north along Kirby Drive to Hooper Road.

The investigators arrived at Location 3 at 7:50 AM. The investigators smelled a 'very light' to 'light' sweet, wild onion odor, but the source was determined to be naturally occurring wild onions in the ditch along Hooper Road. Investigators walked along Hooper Road for an additional 15 minutes before departing the area at 8:20 AM.

During the investigation, the weather was sunny, temperature was 54.5 degrees Fahrenheit, winds were 2 - 5 miles per hour (mph), predominantly from the north and northwest, and there was no precipitation. Meteorological data was obtained from a Kestrel Weather Meter Model 4500.

Attempts were made to contact the complaints on April 13, 2016. The investigator was able to contact two of the complainants by phone on April 13, 2016 with the results of the investigation.

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

Current Enforcement Actions

Based on this investigation, no violations are being alleged.

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 and Recommendations

Based on the TCEQ's Odor Complaint Investigation Procedures and application of the FIDO Chart, a "highly offensive" odor with an intensity of "very strong" would have to be present on a daily basis continuously for at least 1 hour to constitute a nuisance. Although the investigators detected a highly offensive odor, a nuisance condition and 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/Survey Route Map

No Violations Associated to this Investigation

Signed


Environmental Investigator

Date

June 3, 2016

Signed


Supervisor

Date

June 03, 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

Pearland Odor Complaint
Shadow Creek Ranch
CN602295370
RN104046545
Investigation No. 1323344
Investigation Date: March 28, 2016

Attachment 01
Area Map/Survey Route

Investigation type: Complaint
Alr Account NO: RN1040416545
Attachment: 1
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