

AIR CP\_104046545\_CP\_20160607\_INVESTIGATION\_1337456  
**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 #** 1337456

**Incident Numbers**

234083

**Investigator:** MENGISTU LEMMA

**Site Classification**

**Conducted:** 06/07/2016 -- 06/07/2017

**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

ROBERT AGUILAR JR

QA Reviewer

ROBERT AGUILAR JR

INFORMATION COPY

**Associated Check List**

**Checklist Name**

AIR COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

**Unit Name**

Area wide

**Investigation Comments:**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Introduction**

From May 27, 2016 through June 7, 2016 the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Houston Regional Office received 17 complaints as part of the ongoing complaint investigation of various odors near the Shadow Creek Ranch neighborhood in the City of Pearland, Brazoria and Ft. Bend counties of Texas. Some complaints were received by telephone and others by email. The TCEQ Incident number for this investigation is 234083.

The complainants stated that there is a strong odor that smells like rotten garbage in the area that is intermittent

but has been going on for a long time. Some of the complainants stated that it has been going for over a year and others stated that they started experiencing it more recently as within the past six months. The complainants stated that they suspect the odor is coming from the Blue Ridge Landfill. The complainants describe the odor as stronger in the evening to night hours. The complainants identified the odor in different ways: strong odor that smells like rotten garbage; burning trash, toxic gas, and rotten eggs. One complainant has been keeping personal odor log for the duration of the odor during the month of May and shared the information with TCEQ. On May 4, 2016, the complainant detected an odor of rotten garbage at 10:20 pm and the odor lingered through the night and dissipated by 9:00 am. On May 5, 2016 the complainant detected the same odor at 11:50 pm, and it was gone by 7:00 am. On May 14, 2016 the complainant detected similar odor at 8:00 am and it was gone by noon. On May 31, 2016, the complainant detected the rotten garbage odor at 9:00 pm, and it was gone by 9:00 am. A TCEQ odor log was emailed to him for future documentation.

Some complainants alleged that the odor gives them such a bad headache and others complained of nausea and vomiting when the odor is stronger. Some said they could not come out of their house when the odor is strong and are worried about the long time effect on theirs and their children's health. Others are worried about their property value decreasing.

The complaint was assigned to the investigator Mr. Mengistu Lemma on June 2, 2016. The investigator attempted to contact the complainants on June 2, 2016 and June 7, 2016. Several of the complainants did not answer their phone and a message was left on their voice mail. Three people returned calls and talked to the investigator. All of them claimed that the odor is strong at night and the investigation should be conducted at night. The investigator assured them that several investigations are being conducted including an overnight investigation.

#### Investigation Narrative

On June 7, 2016 at 05:40 a.m. TCEQ investigator Mr. Mengistu Lemma arrived in the general vicinity at the north and northeast section of the Shadow Creek Ranch subdivision where most of the complainants indicated they experienced various odors.

The weather was overcast, temperature 69 degrees Fahrenheit, winds were at 3 miles per hour from the east, and the humidity was 68%. There was no precipitation.

The complainants for this investigation are concentrated north of Broadway Street, west of Kirby Drive, south of Shadow Creek Parkway, and Southeast of Alameda Road.

The investigator conducted audio, visual and olfactory (AVO) observations driving from State Highway 288 west on Shadow Creek Parkway. The north section of Shadow Creek Parkway is mostly a business area that consists of retail establishments. The south side of Shadow Creek Parkway is mostly residential with several schools and day care centers located close to Shadow Creek Parkway. No facility was identified as a potential source of the odor.

The investigator then proceeded south onto Alameda Rd. No odor was detected along Alameda Rd. and W. Broadway St.

The investigator drove north on Kingsley Dr. and then northeast to the intersection of Trinity Bay Dr. and Arcadia Bay Dr., the investigator met the TCEQ Monitoring Division Team that was conducting an overnight odor surveillance in Pearland, Texas.

The investigator then started driving through the Shadow Creek Ranch subdivision. The investigator conducted an odor survey at the following locations: Lilac View Ct, Mountain Sage Dr, Barton Shores Dr, Greenblade Ct, Mystic Cove Ln, Calico Creek Ln, Shadow Falls Ln, Meadow Springs Dr, Rusting Creek Dr, Shady Springs Dr, and Biscayne Bay Dr. No detectable odor was observed. The investigator left the area at 9:00 a.m. and return to the office.

#### Facility Authorization Narrative

The investigator conducted a general area survey but did not enter any facility because none of the facilities were identified as sources by the complainants or investigators. Therefore, no site visit was conducted.

#### Exit Interview

**GENERIC INCIDENT ZIP CODE 77584 - PEARLAND**

**6/7/2016 to 6/7/2017 Inv. # - 1337456**

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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**

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**

Based on a review of CCEDS during the past five years, there are hundreds of odor complaint 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 "very light" would have to be present on a daily basis continuously for at least 12 hours to constitute a nuisance. Because the investigator did not experience any odors at the time the survey was performed, nuisance condition and source of odor could not be confirmed.

**Additional Issues**

No additional issues were noted during this investigation.

**REPORT ATTACHMENTS**

1. Area & Survey Route Map

**No Violations Associated to this Investigation**

Signed

Mengistu Lemma

Environmental Investigator

Date

8/3/16

Signed

Robert Aguilar

Supervisor

Date

8/5/16

**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

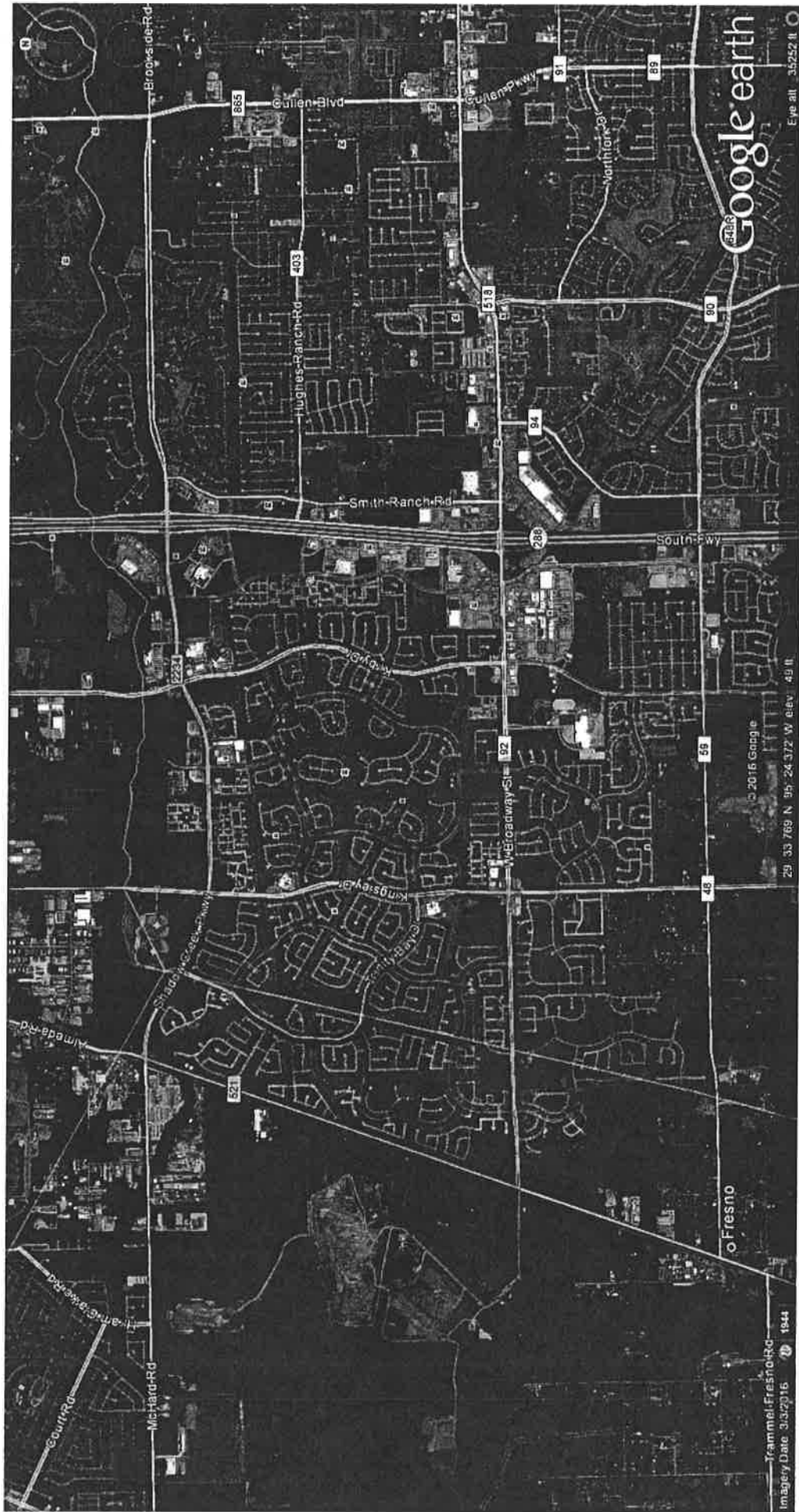
☒ Other (specify) :

AREA SURVEY ROUTE MAP

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

**RN104046545**  
**Pearland Odor Compliant Investigation**  
**Pearland, Brazoria/Ft. Bend Counties, TX.**

**June 7, 2016**



DRIVING ROUTE

Investigation Type: Complaint

Air Account NO:

Attachment: 1

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## TCEQ Complaint Report

08/03/2016  
3:48:51PM

**Incident No:** 234083

**Media Type:** AIR

**Start Date:** 5/27/2016 **Start Time:** 9:40:00PM

**Received Date:** 05/27/2015

**Method :** EMAIL

**Staff Member:** MLEMMA

**Status:** Closed

**Status Date:** 08/03/2016

**Priority:** Within 14 Calendar Days

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

**RN104046545**

**Address:**

BRAZORIA County

**Physical Location:**

**Responsible Party:**

**Title:**

**Address:**

**Number Complaining:** 17

**Frequency:** CURRENT

**Alleged Source:** GENERIC INCIDENT ZIP CODE 77584

**Program Group:** AIR QUALITY -  
HIGH LEVEL

**Nature:** ODOR

**Effect:** ENVIRONMENTAL

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### Initial Problem

The Complainant alleged impacts of odor coming from an unknown source in the area.

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### Action Taken

This complaint has been assigned and will be further investigated by an Environmental Investigator.

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### Closure Comments

More information will be available upon approval of the investigation report.

**Investigation Number:** 1337456