

AIR CP\_102610102\_CP\_20160902\_INVESTIGATION\_1358204\_  
**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**  
**Investigation Report**

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**Customer: Blue Ridge Landfill TX, LP**  
**Customer Number: CN602820599**

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**Regulated Entity Name: BLUE RIDGE LANDFILL**  
**Regulated Entity Number: RN102610102**

<b>Investigation #</b> 1358204	<b>Incident Numbers</b> 242416
<b>Investigator:</b> GREGORY CROOK	<b>Site Classification</b>
<b>Conducted:</b> 09/02/2016 -- 09/02/2016	<b>NAIC Code:</b> 562212 <b>SIC Code:</b> 4953 <b>SIC Code:</b> 1521
<b>Program(s):</b> AIR QUALITY NON PERMITTED	
<b>Investigation Type:</b> Compliance Investigation	<b>Location:</b> LOCATED ON 2200 FM 521
<b>Additional ID(s):</b> FG0536E	
<b>Address:</b> 2200 FM 521 RD, FRESNO, TX , 77545	<b>Local Unit:</b> REGION 12 - HOUSTON <b>Activity Type(s):</b> AIRCOMPL - AIR CMPL - AIR COMPLAINT INV

**Principal(s):**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>
RESPONDENT	BLUE RIDGE LANDFILL TX LP

**Contact(s):**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>
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**Other Staff Member(s):**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>
Investigator	MARIE POPE
Investigator	TOM PINKSTON
QA Reviewer	WARDA OMAR
QA Reviewer	JUSTIN MAYWORN
QA Reviewer	JOSEPH DOBY
Supervisor	WARDA OMAR

**Associated Check List**

<b><u>Checklist Name</u></b>	<b><u>Unit Name</u></b>
AIR GENERIC INVESTIGATION (10 ITEMS)	Shadow Creek Ranch Area
AIR INVESTIGATION - EQUIPMENT MONITORING AND SAMPLING revised 06/2013	Shadow Creek Ranch Area

**Investigation Comments:**

INTRODUCTION

## Introduction

From August 26-31 & September 1-2, 2016, TCEQ received sixteen (16) complaints documented in one incident (incident number 242416) by telephone regarding a strong odor in the vicinity of Shadow Creek Ranch neighborhood in Pearland, Texas.

Complainants had varying descriptions for the odor including, "rotten egg, sewer, ammonia gas, chemical odor, burning trash smell, and landfill gas." The complainants stated that the odors were present either in the morning (12:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.) or in the afternoon to evening (1:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.) This odor has allegedly occurred intermittently, usually once or twice per week. Complainants claimed that this had been going on for months. The majority believe the source of odor was the Blue Ridge Landfill (BRL), located to the west of subdivision. Four of the 16 complainants stated that the odors have caused nausea and headaches. The other complainants expressed concern for their health.

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.

It is important to note that during these odor surveys a MultiRAE parts per millions (ppm) analyzer and Toxic Vapor Analyzer (TVA) were used the entire time.

Map of source location is included in Attachment 1.

## Investigation Narrative

The onsite investigation took place on September 2, 2016. The investigation was conducted by TCEQ Investigators Mr. Chris Crook, Ms. Marie Pope and Mr. Tom Pinkston. 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 September 2, 2016 (alleged incident date & investigation date)

Cloud Cover: Cloudy

Wind Direction: North Northeast

Wind Speed: 0-5 mph

Temperature: Minimum 73° Fahrenheit -Maximum 93° Fahrenheit

Precipitation: 0.14 inches

Source of Meteorological Conditions: Weather Underground (KAXH)

TCEQ Investigators Mr. Chris Crook, Ms. Marie Pope, and Mr. Tom Pinkston arrived in the Shadow Creek Ranch area at the intersection of W Broadway St and Kingsley Drive at 5:50 a.m. The investigators conducted odor surveys throughout the neighborhood starting at Trinity Bay Drive. The investigators surveyed throughout survey area #1 (SEE ATTACHMENT 2) from 5:55 a.m. to 6:20 a.m. No odors were detected.

At 6:20 a.m., the investigators continued their survey throughout the Shadow Creek Ranch area. From 6:20 a.m. to 6:30, the investigators drove from Trinity Bay Drive to McHard Road and surveyed for odor throughout survey area #2 (SEE ATTACHMENT 2.1). During this survey, no odors were detected. The investigators departed from sector 2 at 6:30 a.m.

At 6:30 a.m., the investigators entered into Green Valley Estates at the intersection of McHard Road and Hiram Clarke Road a general survey was conducted until the end of Hiram Clarke Road, South of Lonestar Recycling (SEE ATTACHMENT 2.1). No odors were detected. The investigators departed from the Green Valley Estates area at 6:40 a.m.

At 6:40 a.m., the investigators continued to conduct odor surveys on McHard Road. At 6:40 a.m., the investigators detected a moderate landfill gas/ honeysuckle odor at Ward Leonard located at 8100 McHard Road (SEE ATTACHMENT 3). Light landfill gas odors were detected at this location. The investigators documented the odor at this intensity from 6:40 a.m. to 7:10 a.m. The one minute weighted average was moderate, and the 10 minute weighted average was light. The wind was coming from the North at 3.5 mph (SEE ATTACHMENT 4- page

## BLUE RIDGE LANDFILL - FRESNO

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1). Additionally Mr. Tom Pinkston, while running the TVA analyzer picked up VOC readings ranging from 0.1 ppm of VOC to 1 ppm of VOC. The investigators departed from Ward Leonard at 7:10 a.m.

At 7:10 a.m., the investigators continued back onto McHard Road. At 7:15 a.m., the investigators detected a moderate landfill gas/ honeysuckle odor at Rolls Royce located at 18303 McHard Road (SEE ATTACHMENT 3- Odor Decton Locations). The investigators documented the odor at this intensity from 7:15 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. The one minute weighted average was moderate, and the 10 minute weighted average was light. The wind was variable ranging from 0-4 mph. (SEE ATTACHMENT 4- page 2). Once again, the TVA analyzer was operated by Mr. Tom Pinkston and it detected 0.1 ppm to 1 ppm of VOC. The investigators departed Rolls Royce at 7:45 a.m.

At 7:45 a.m., the investigators continued back onto McHard Road until the intersection of Shadow Creek Pkwy. The investigators then turned onto Kingsley Drive. An odor survey was conducted down the entire length of Kingsley Drive and throughout survey area #3 (SEE ATTACHMENT 2.2). During this survey, no odors were detected.

### 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 September 15, 2016. Several of the complainants were anonymous and were not contacted.

## GENERAL FACILITY AND PROCESS INFORMATION

### Process Description

Blue Ridge Landfill accepts waste and has a gas collection and control system. Detailed process descriptions can be found in the Houston Region files.

## 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 and regional office records, there have been hundreds of odor complaints received from within the survey area and numerous investigations related to odors. At the time of the review, multiple related odor investigations were being conducted by the Region 12 office. Many of these incidents include complaints received from multiple complainants.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Conclusions, Recommendations, and Current Enforcement Actions

Landfill gas/ honeysuckle odors were detected at two locations during this investigation. Investigators characterized the landfill gas odors as highly offensive based on experience, training, and the examples on the TCEQ Frequency, Intensity, Duration and Offensiveness (FIDO) chart. The landfill gas odor and honeysuckle odor were the same as experienced by Investigator Chris Crook on May 25, 2016 (investigation #1349609), May 26, 2016 (investigation #1337795), and June 6 & 7, 2016 (investigation #1337792). During this investigation, the investigators experienced a landfill gas/ honeysuckle odor that was highly offensive and a light intensity for ten minutes. During this investigation and in investigation #1331231, Blue Ridge Landfill was determined to be the

source of the odors detected at offsite locations. The findings from this investigation will be addressed in investigation #1331231.

Additional Issues

No additional issues were noted during this investigation.

REPORT ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Area Map
- 2. Survey Area #1
- 2.1. Survey Area #2
- 2.2. Survey Area #3
- 3. Odor Detection Locations
- 4. Odor Logs

No Violations Associated to this Investigation

Signed Chris Brook  
 Environmental Investigator

Date 1/12/2017

Signed [Signature]  
 Supervisor

Date 01/19/2017

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

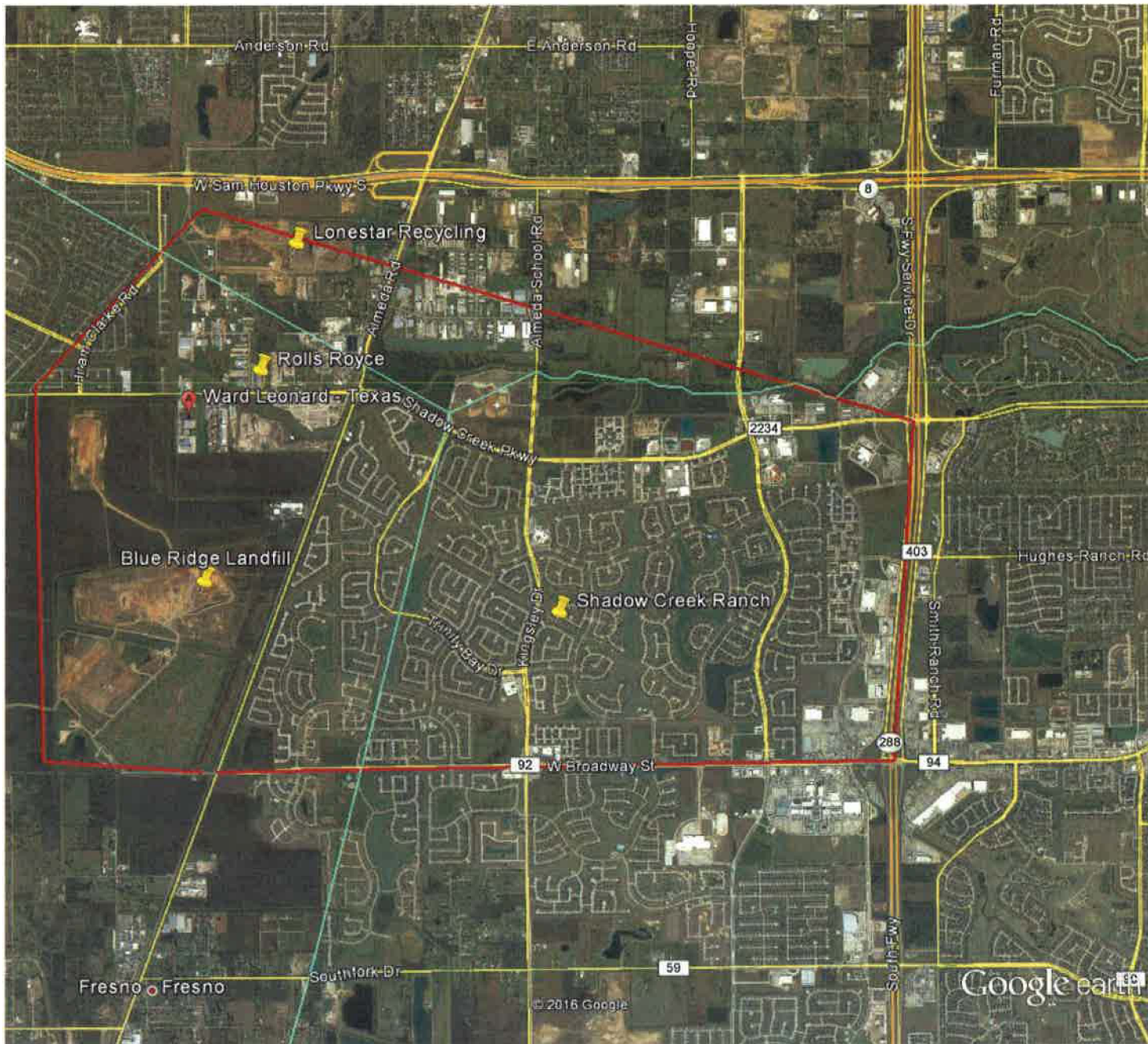
Attachment 1

Shadow Creek Ranch Area Map

RN #102610102

Investigation #1358204

September 2, 2016



Google earth

miles 2  
km 4



Investigation Type: CMP1

Air Account NO: NA

Attachment: SHADOW CREEK RANCH AREA MAP

Page: 1 of 1

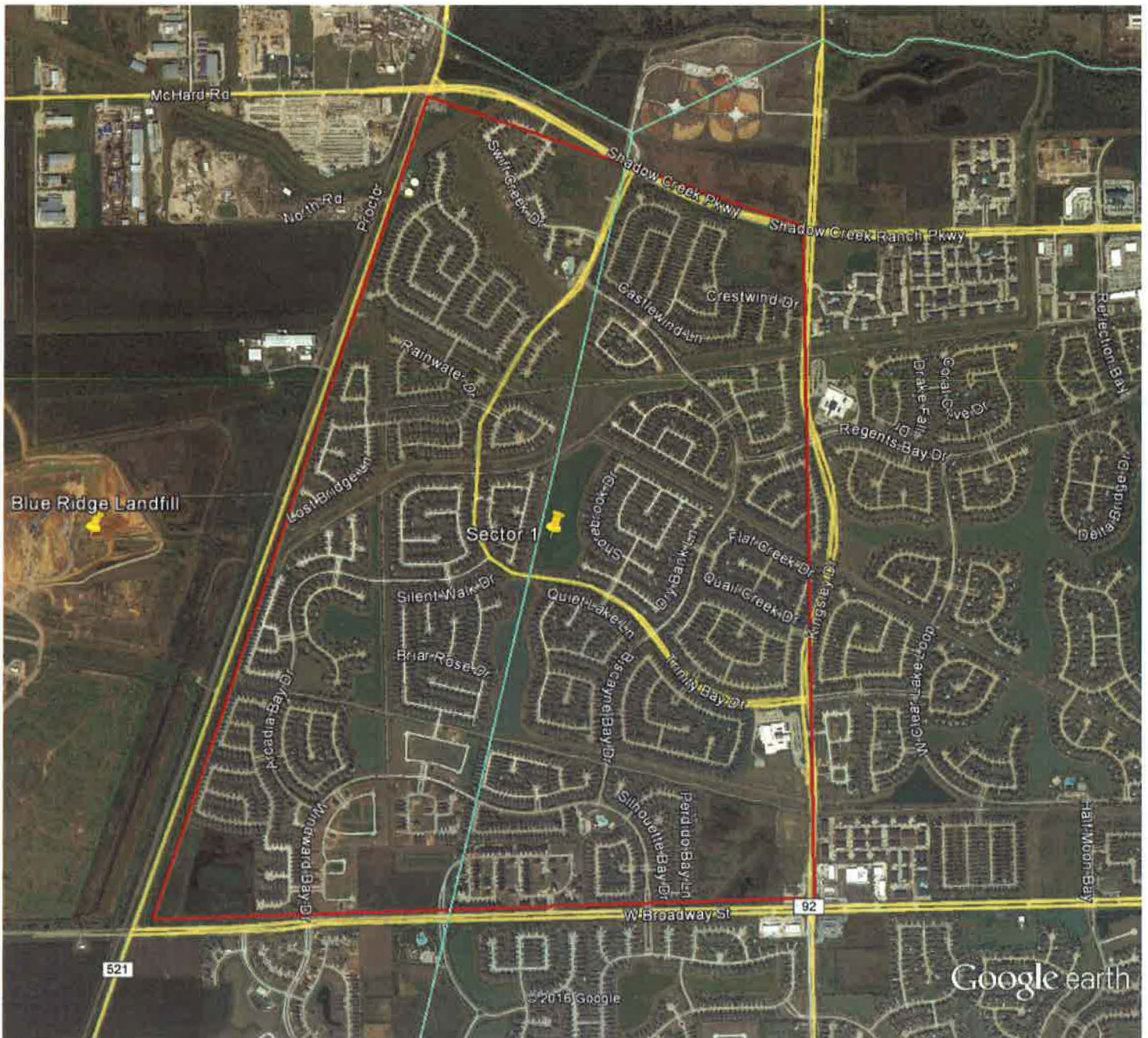
Attachment 2

Survey Area #1

RN #102610102

Investigation #1358204

September 2, 2016



Google earth



Investigation Type: CMPL  
 Air Account NO: NA  
 Attachment: SURVEY ~~area~~ #1  
 Page: 1 of 1



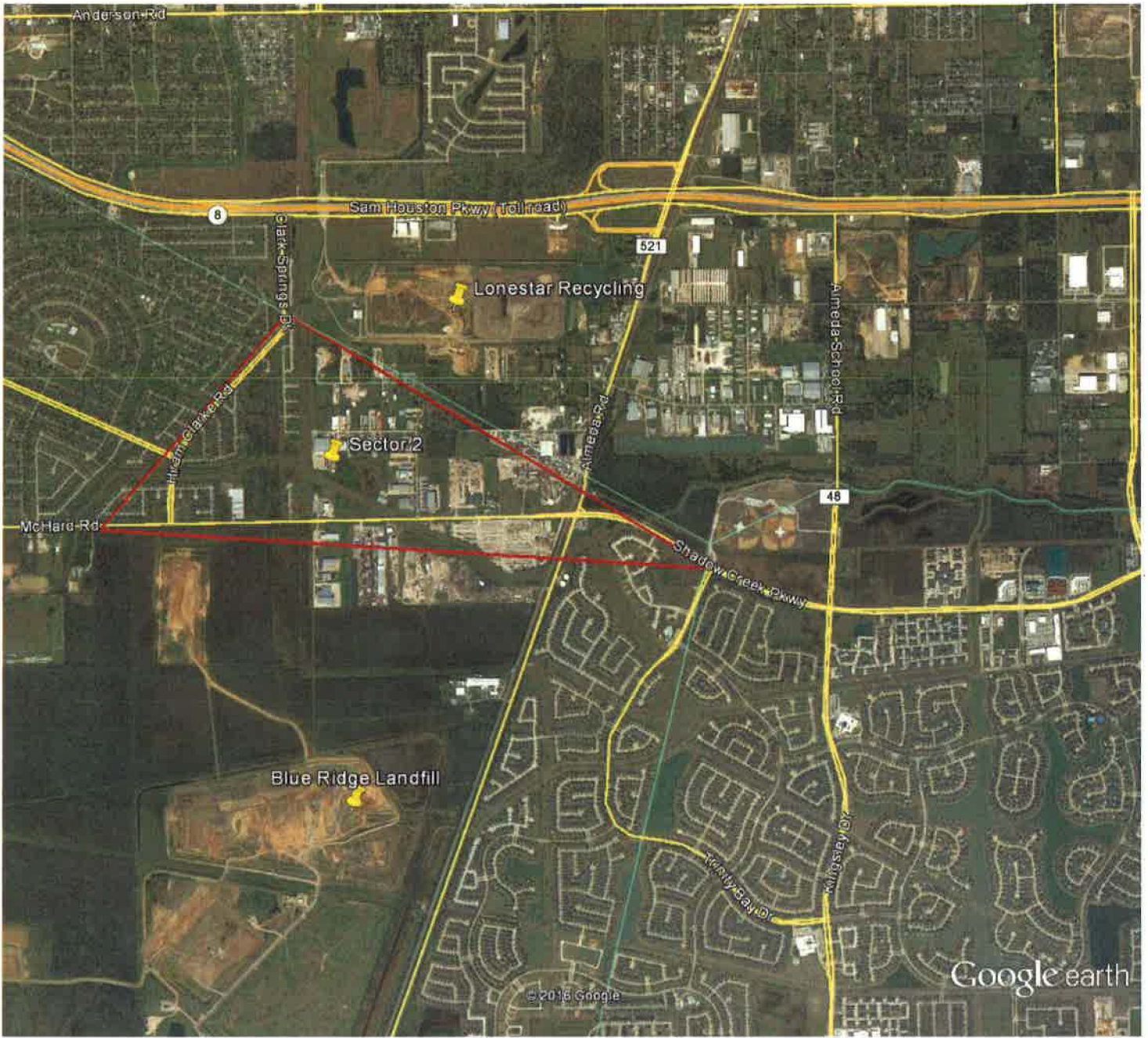
Attachment 2.1

Survey Area #2

RN #102610102

Investigation #1328204

September 2, 2016



Google earth

miles  
km



Investigation Type: CMPL  
Air Account NO: NA Area #  
Attachment: SURVEY ~~SECRET~~ 2  
Page: 1 of 1

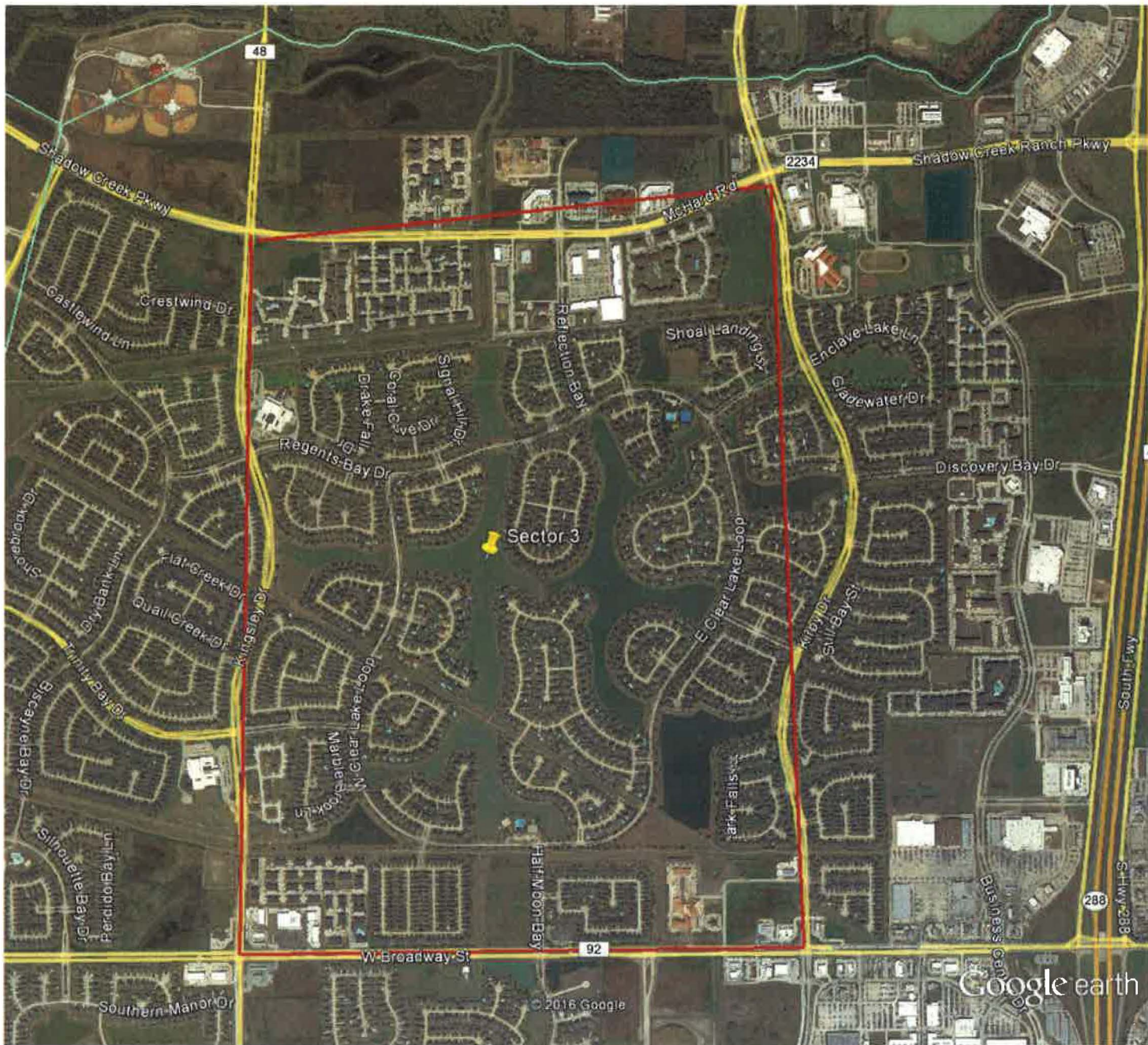
Attachment 2.2

Survey Area #3

RN #102610102

Investigation #1358204

September 2, 2016



Google earth



Investigation Type: C MPL  
 Air Account NO: NA Area #  
 Attachment: SURVEY ~~SECTOR~~ # 3  
 Page: 1 of 1

Attachment 3

Odor Detection Locations

RN #102610102

Investigation #1358204

September 2, 2016



Google earth

feet  
meters



Investigation Type: CMPPL

Air Account NO: NA

Attachment: ODOR DETECTION LOCATIONS

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Attachment 4

Odor Logs

RN #102610102

Investigation #1358204

September 2, 2016

## Investigator's Odor Intensity Time Log

Date of Investigation: 9/2/2016 Start Time: 6:40  
 Name and Address of Alleged Source: Ward Leonard, 6100 McHard RD  
 Investigator's Name: Print: Chris Crook Sign: Chris Crook

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
1 min	M
2	M
3	L
4	L
5	L
6	L
7	VL
8	VL
9	VL
10	VL
11	NO ODOR
12	NO ODOR
13	VL
14	VL
15	VL
16	VL
17	VL
18	L
19	L
20	L
21	NO ODOR
22	NO ODOR
23	VL
24	NO ODOR
25	NO ODOR
26	NO ODOR
27	L
28	VL
29	NO ODOR
30	NO ODOR

*0.1 ppm VOC on MULTIRAE*

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	

Offensiveness: Highly \_\_\_\_\_ Offensive  Unpleasant \_\_\_\_\_ Not Unpleasant \_\_\_\_\_

*weighted average*

Dominant Odor Intensity For:	VS	S	M	L	VL	No Odor
1 Min						
10 Min			2	4	4	
1 Hour						

Investigation Type: CAMPL  
 Air Account NO: NA  
 Attachment: ODOR LOGS  
 Page: 1 of 2



## Investigator's Odor Intensity Time Log

Date of Investigation: 9/2/2016 Start Time 7:15  
 Name and Address of Alleged Source: Rolls Royce / 19303 McArthur  
 Investigator's Name: Print: Chris Grode Sign: Chris Grode

Minutes	Odor Intensity VL, L, M, S, VS
1 min	M
2	M
3	M
4	VL
5	VL
6	M
7	M
8	VL
9	<del>NO ODOR</del>
10	L <del>NO ODOR</del>
11	M <del>NO ODOR</del>
12	VL
13	VL
14	L
15	NO ODOR
16	VL
17	M
18	M
19	M
20	M
21	M
22	M
23	VL
24	L
25	NO ODOR
26	NO ODOR
27	NO ODOR
28	NO ODOR
29	NO ODOR
30	NO ODOR

0.2 ppm USC

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	

weighted average

Offensiveness: Highly \_\_\_\_\_ Offensive  Unpleasant \_\_\_\_\_ Not Unpleasant \_\_\_\_\_

Dominant Odor Intensity For:	VS	S	M	L	VL	No Odor
1 Min						
10 Min			5	1	3	1
1 Hour						

Investigation Type: CMP  
 Air Account NO: NA  
 Attachment: ODOR LOGS  
 Page: 2 of 2