

AIR CP_104046545_CP_20161006_INVESTIGATION_1364876_
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 # 1364876

Incident Numbers

244817

Investigator: MENGISTU LEMMA

Site Classification

Conducted: 10/06/2016 -- 10/06/2016

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

RECEIVED

DEC 29 2016

TCEQ
CENTRAL FILE ROOM

Other Staff Member(s):

Role

Name

Supervisor

ROBERT AGUILAR JR

QA Reviewer

ROBERT AGUILAR JR

Associated Check List

Checklist Name

AIR PERMIT SITE REVIEW

AIR COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

Unit Name

Area Wide

Area Wide

Investigation Comments:

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

From October 1, 2016 through October 3, 2016 the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Houston Regional Office received 44 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 244817.

The complainants stated that there is a foul odor that smells like rotten eggs, or sewer 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.

Some complainants alleged that the odor gives them bad headaches, 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. One complainant stated that the odor start seeping inside the house and giving them headaches.

The complaint was assigned to the investigator Mr. Mengistu Lemma on October 5, 2016. The investigator attempted to contact the complainants on October 5, 2016 and October 6, 2016. Most of the complainants did not answer their phones and messages were left on their voice mails. Five people returned calls and talked to the investigator. All of them claimed that they have called TCEQ with the same complaint before with no solution. One person claimed that this was their fifth time calling and has been receiving the same letter from different investigators. The investigator assured them that the TCEQ Houston regional office has conducted multiple investigations of allegations similar to those in their complaint and is continuing to investigate the odors. The agency is aware of the ongoing problem and is diligently working to address it. To that end, there are several investigations being conducted including overnight investigations.

Investigation Narrative

On October 6, 2016 at 04:30 a.m. TCEQ investigator Mr. Mengistu Lemma arrived in the general vicinity where most of the complainants that experienced the odor reside which is the north and northwest section of the Shadow Creek Ranch subdivision.

The skies were overcast with a temperature 62 degrees Fahrenheit, winds 5 miles per hour from East Southeast, and the humidity was 74%. There was no precipitation.

The Shadow Creek Ranch Subdivision is a large subdivision that is bordered to the east by State Highway 288, to the north by Sam Houston Parkway, to the west by FM 521 (Almeda Rd.) and to the south by South Fork Drive. The major part of the subdivision lies in Brazoria county, but the western part of the subdivision extends into Ft. Bend County. Most of the complainants for this investigation are concentrated north of Broadway Street, west of Kirby Drive, south of McHard Rd. (Shadow Creek Parkway), and north of Almeda Road.

The investigator began by conducting an audio, visual and olfactory (AVO) observation 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, hotels, dining establishments and medical facilities. The south side of the street is mostly residential with several schools and day care centers located near Shadow Creek Parkway. No facility was identified on Shadow Creek Parkway as a potential source of the odor.

The investigator turned south on Trinity Bay Drive into the Shadow Creek Ranch Subdivision. The investigator did not detect any odor in this area, however, continued to drive through the neighborhood. Next, the investigator conducted an AVO observation by driving and walking through the neighborhood on Trinity Bay Drive to Biscayne Bay Drive, Windward Bay Drive, Shoalwater Lane, Silhouette Bay Drive, and back to Windward Bay Drive. The AVO observation continued to Arcadia Bay Drive, Longlake Drive, Silent Walk Drive, Night Song Drive, Cayman Bend Lane, Juniper Springs Drive, and Rusting Creek Drive to Trinity Bay Drive exiting the Subdivision. No odors were detected in this area.

The investigator then turn right on West Broadway heading towards the entrance of the Blue Ridge Landfill. No odor was detected at this location, as the winds were mostly calm. The investigator then turn right onto Almeda Road from West Broadway and no odor was detected in this area. The investigator traveled on Almeda Road then turned right on to Shadow Creek Parkway heading to the Kingsley Drive and entering the Shadow Creek Ranch subdivision through a different entrance further east from the Trinity Bay entrance to conduct AVO observations. No odors were detected in this area.

The investigator then started driving back through the same neighborhood streets where some of the complainants' houses are located and continued the AVO observation. No detectable odor was observed. The investigator left the area at 8:00 a.m. and headed back to the office.

Facility Authorization Narrative

The investigator conducted a general area survey but did not enter any facilities because none of the facilities were identified as sources by the complainants or investigator except Blue Ridge Landfill. The Blue Ridge Landfill is under investigation for a similar odor complaint (Investigation # 1331231). Therefore, no site visit was conducted for this investigation.

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

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 multiple of odor complaints 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. 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 & Survey Route Map

No Violations Associated to this Investigation

Signed

Mungisa Jemmy
Environmental Investigator

Date

12/8/16

Signed

Robert Aguilar
Supervisor

Date

12/9/16

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

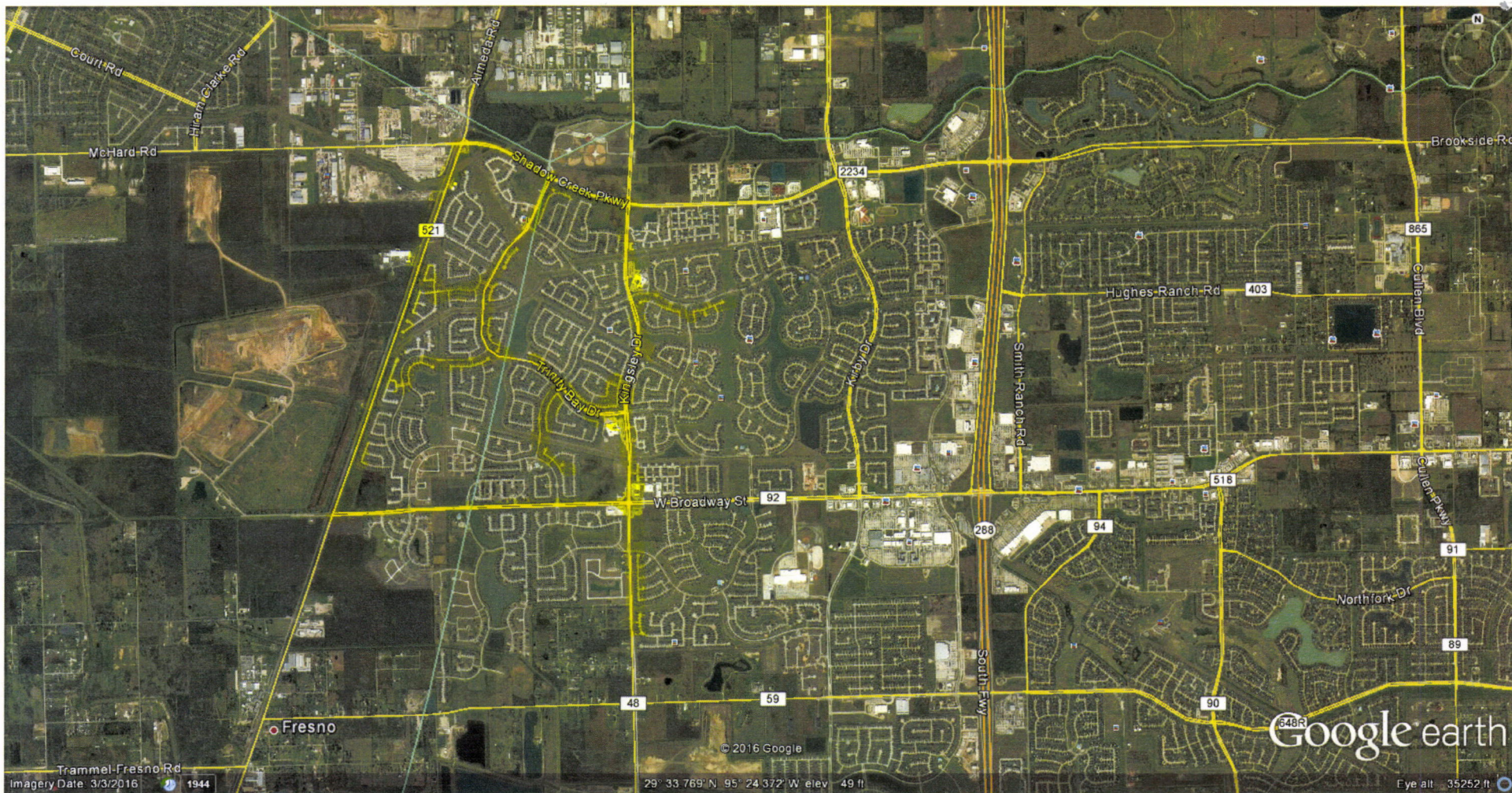
☒ Other (specify) :

ATT-1 Area! Survey Map

**Attachment 1
Area & survey Route Map**

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

October 6, 2016



DRIVING ROUTE

Investigation Type: Complaint
 Air Account NO:
 Attachment: 1
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