

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., P.E., *Chairman*
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Richard A. Hyde, P.E., *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

August 4, 2017

Ms. Laurie Rodriguez
3501 E. Orange Street
Pearland, Texas 77581

Re: Investigation Request at:
Lone Star Recycling & Disposal, 4107 S. Sam Houston Pkwy W, Houston (Harris County),
Texas 77053-2594
TCEQ MSW No.: 2344
Investigation No.: 1409545
Incident No.: 254999

Dear Ms. Rodriguez:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Houston Region Office has completed a final investigation in response to your concern regarding the sour garbage odor at the above-referenced facility. Enclosed is a copy of the investigation report.

For more information about our complaint process, you may access the publication GI-278: *Do You Want to Make an Environmental Complaint? Do You Have Information or Evidence?* on our website at www.tceq.texas.gov.

We appreciate your concern in bringing this matter to our attention. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Mr. Richard Blackney at (713) 767-3718.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Alma L. Jefferson in black ink.

Alma L. Jefferson, Team Leader
Waste Section
Houston Region Office

ALJ/RLB/rsv

Enclosure: Investigation Report

MSW PA_2344_CO_20170420_Investigation Report
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Investigation Report

The TCEQ is committed to accessibility. If you need assistance in accessing this document, please contact oce@tceq.texas.gov

Customer: Delta Waste Services L.P.
Customer Number: CN602956625

Regulated Entity Name: LONE STAR RECYCLING & DISPOSAL

Regulated Entity Number: RN104808498

Investigation # 1409545

Incident Numbers

254999 259577

Investigator: RICHARD BLACKNEY

Site Classification TYPE 4

Conducted: 04/20/2017 -- 08/02/2017

SIC Code: 1542

SIC Code: 4953

NAIC Code: 562212

Program(s): MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Investigation Type: Compliance Investigation

Location: APPROX 900 FT S OF BELTWAY 8 S
APPROX 900 FT W OF FM 521 & E OF FUTURE
HIRAM CLARKE RD CONNECTION TO BELTWAY 8
S

Additional ID(s): 2344
40249

Address: 4107 S SAM HOUSTON PKWY W,
HOUSTON, TX , 77053

Local Unit: REGION 12 - HOUSTON

Activity Type(s): MSWC MPL - Investigation of MSW
complaint

Principal(s):

Role	Name
RESPONDENT	DELTA WASTE SERVICES LP

Contact(s):

Role	Title	Name	Phone
PARTICIPATED IN	LANDFILL MANAGER	MR JEREMY KING	Work (281) 416-2662
REGULATED ENTITY CONTACT	LANDFILL MANAGER	MR JEREMY KING	Work (281) 416-2662

Other Staff Member(s):

Role	Name
QA Reviewer	TOM COLLINS
Supervisor	ALMA JEFFERSON

Associated Check List

<u>Checklist Name</u>
MSW COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

<u>Unit Name</u>
complaint

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Investigation Comments:

INTRODUCTION

On March 28 and June 2, 2017, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Houston Region Office received complaints alleging odors from Lone Star Recycling & Disposal (Lone Star) located at 4107 S Sam Houston Pkwy W, Houston (Harris County), Texas 77053. The odors were alleged to have occurred on March 24, 27, and June 2, 2017.

On April 20 and June 8, 2017, Mr. Richard Blackney, Environmental Investigator from the TCEQ Houston Region Office, conducted odor surveys in the area near Lone Star and unannounced Odor Complaint Investigations at Lone Star.

BACKGROUND

The TCEQ Houston Region Office files were reviewed, and a Consolidated Compliance and Enforcement Data System (CCEDS) search was conducted prior to this investigation. There were no outstanding solid waste violations found for this facility.

GENERAL FACILITY AND PROCESS INFORMATION

Lone Star authorization numbers from the TCEQ Central Registry database are included in Attachment 1. Lone Star is a Type IV landfill which is authorized to operate by TCEQ Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Disposal Permit No. 2344. Lone Star is also a Type V Transfer Station authorized by MSW Processing Permit No. 40249.

The landfill is authorized to accept brush, construction and demolition debris, and rubbish. Putrescible waste may not be accepted for disposal at the landfill. The transfer station may accept putrescible and non-putrescible wastes for consolidation into larger vehicles for transfer off site.

The surrounding land use within a one-mile radius of the facility is primarily undeveloped acreage, with a mix of governmental, residential, and commercial properties interspersed.

Complainant Information:

See confidential files (TCEQ Incident Nos. 254999 and 259577).

Meteorological data at the time of the April 20, 2017 odor survey:

Resultant Wind Direction: South-Southeast

Resultant Wind Speed: 5.3 mph

Outdoor Temperature: 80.5°F

Meteorological data taken from the Weather Underground website (Attachment 2).

Odor Survey (OS):

On April 20, 2017, the investigator went to OS Site No. 1 located at the intersection of Summerlyn Drive and Chevery Drive in Houston. OS No. 1 took place downwind of Lone Star and was conducted at 9:30 a.m. No odors were detected during the 15 minutes spent at OS No. 1.

The investigator then went to OS No. 2 at the intersection of Summerlyn Drive and Hiram Clarke Road in Houston. OS No. 2 took place downwind of Lone Star and was conducted at 9:47 a.m. Odors typical of landfill garbage were detected for three of the 15 minutes spent at OS No. 2, averaging to very light.

An aerial view map of the OS locations and the OS logs are included in Attachment 2.

Summary of on-site investigation:

Following the odor survey, the investigator arrived at Lone Star, and met with Mr. Jeremy King, Landfill Manager, to whom the purpose and scope of the investigation were explained.

Mr. King drove the investigator to the MSW working face of the landfill, where waste is deposited and covered at the end of the week. Lone Star must apply six inches of soil to the MSW working face weekly. Piles of soil for cover were observed by the working face. The investigator obtained copies of the cover logs that had been

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completed for January 7, 2017 through April 15, 2017. (Attachment 3). The cover logs indicated that six inches of soil was applied to the working faces weekly, after which no waste was exposed. No issues were noted.

Mr. King also escorted the investigator to the transfer station building. The amount of waste in the building did not appear to be more than could be processed within 24 hours. Lone Star is required to wash the transfer station floor daily. The investigator obtained records of daily site inspections for March and April of 2017 (Attachment 3) which indicate that the floor and tunnel were washed daily.

Meteorological data at the time of the June 8, 2017 odor survey:

Resultant Wind Direction: Northeast

Resultant Wind Speed: 4.8 mph

Outdoor Temperature: 86.8°F

Meteorological data taken from the Weather Underground website (Attachment 4).

Odor Survey (OS):

The investigator went to an OS site located at the intersection of West Dr. and Bluebonnet Dr. in Houston. The OS took place downwind of Lone Star and was conducted at 1:16 p.m. No odors were detected during the 10 minutes spent at the OS site.

An aerial view map of the OS location and the OS log are included in Attachment 4.

Summary of on-site investigation:

Following the odor survey, the investigator arrived at Lone Star, and met with Mr. Jeremy King, Landfill Manager, to whom the purpose and scope of the investigation were explained.

Mr. King drove the investigator to the MSW working face of the landfill, where piles of soil for cover were observed. The investigator obtained copies of the cover log that had been completed for April 1, 2017 through June 3, 2017. (Attachment 5). The cover logs indicated that six inches of soil was applied to the working faces weekly. No issues were noted.

Mr. King also escorted the investigator to the transfer station building. The amount of waste in the building did not appear to be more than could be processed within 24 hours. Lone Star is required to wash the transfer station floor daily. The investigator obtained records of daily site inspections for May and June of 2017 (Attachment 5) which indicate that the floor and tunnel were washed daily.

Description of Odor:

Odors typical of landfill garbage were detected during the odor survey conducted on April 20, 2017.

Description of the Effects on the Investigator:

No health effects were experienced by the investigator.

Location of the Source of the Odor:

The alleged source of the odor is Lone Star.

ODOR FIDO CHART EVALUATION:

According to the Frequency Intensity Duration Offensiveness (FIDO) protocol, the odor of landfill garbage is characterized as "offensive". As no other odors from Lone Star were detected by the investigator in the 90 days prior to April 20, 2017, the frequency of odors is a single occurrence. According to FIDO protocol, a nuisance condition was not confirmed.

CONCLUSION

The complaints are unconfirmed for nuisance odors and are closed.

No Violations Associated to this Investigation

Signed Richard Blackman
Environmental Investigator

Date 08/04/2017

Signed Alma L. Jefferson
Supervisor

Date 08/04/2017

Attachments: (in order of final report submittal)

☐ Enforcement Action Request (EAR)
☒ Letter to Facility (specify type): No Action Letter
Investigation Report
☐ Sample Analysis Results
☐ Manifests
☐ Notice of Registration

☒ Maps, Plans, Sketches
☐ Photographs
☐ Correspondence from the facility
☒ Other (specify): See list of attachments