
Actions taken to Address Odor Issues

Countryside Landfill Site

May 2010

Oversight

Field inspectors from local, state or federal environmental agencies are at the site frequently to ensure the air monitors are functioning properly. If you would like to learn more about the monitors, contact any of the individuals on the other side of this Fact Sheet.

Odor Complaints

Please contact the Lake County Health Department at **847-377-8096** with odor complaints. Please be prepared to provide the following information:

- Your Name
- Location of odor
- Date & time odor encountered
- Odor intensity (see scale below)

ODOR INTENSITY SCALE

- 1 Slight odor, barely detectable
- 2 Some odor, clearly detectable
- 3 Strong odor, enough to attempt to avoid it
- 4 Very strong odor, overpowering and intolerable for any amount of time

This information will greatly assist the data collection process.

The Lake County Health Department (LCHD) is working with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 (USEPA) and Waste Management to address odor issues at Countryside Landfill. The odors are related to hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) gas, which smells like rotten eggs, originating from a specific area in the landfill. In September 2009, LCHD, USEPA, IEPA, and Waste Management developed a plan to establish an on-site air monitoring network to ensure that additional engineering control measures designed to prevent the release of odors are effective.

Odor Control Efforts

Several efforts have been undertaken at Countryside Landfill to control odors and monitor for odor releases. In addition to previous expansions of the existing gas collection system performed in 2008 and 2009, a large expansion of the gas collection system was completed in the southeastern portion of landfill in March 2010. Over 2,900 feet of horizontal gas collection piping was installed in order to increase gas collection capacity. In addition, a new enclosed flare will be installed this summer to replace the existing enclosed flare. The new enclosed flare will have automatic controls that will adjust system vacuum in the event the gas-to-electricity plant suffers any shutdown. The existing enclosed flare will remain in place as a backup unit. Finally, thirteen designated locations throughout the landfill are monitored for the presence of H₂S gas each day.

Air Monitoring

In March 2010, USEPA established an air monitoring network at the perimeter of the landfill to detect H₂S gas odors. The network consists of three monitors, two of which are located at prevailing downwind locations along the eastern landfill boundary and the other at an upwind location near the main office. A full meteorological station was also installed on the roof of the main office. Monitors for wind direction and speed are also attached to each downwind monitor. The monitors will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week though the summer and fall, and perhaps beyond, depending on the results. The information collected will be used to better define the source of the odors, weather conditions that make the odors worse and to determine the effectiveness of the onsite engineering control measures used to control odors. The monitoring results will be summarized and made available to residents in a fact sheet or similar correspondence.



Hydrogen Sulfide monitor located downwind of landfill

Contact information

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