



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2016

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UPDATE - Orange County Landfill to Explore State Recommendations

Orange County, FL – The Orange County Utilities Solid Waste Division received recommendations from the Florida Department of Health regarding monitoring of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) odors at the Orange County Landfill, 5901 Young Pine Road, Orlando, located in east Orange County off Young Pine Road between SR 417 and Innovation Way.

The letter dated May 10 (below) outlines monitoring recommendations that align well with the existing [plan](#) to address odors at the landfill that was conducted by professional consultants in March.

“The recommendations reinforce that the steps we are taking to monitor hydrogen sulfide are on target,” said Jim Becker, manager of the Orange County Utilities Solid Waste Division.

Orange County Utilities and the Florida Department of Health concur that the most effective equipment for accurately measuring hydrogen sulfide are the Jerome® monitors manufactured by Arizona Instrument LLC, which were recently approved for the landfill. The Solid Waste Division has been monitoring concentrations using a portable Jerome monitor weekly since August. The new equipment will provide hydrogen sulfide data 24 hours per day/7 days per week at remote locations.

Becker said that the monitoring locations and times outlined by the state letter will be thoroughly evaluated.

Hydrogen sulfide odors, which smell like sulfur or rotten eggs, have been an issue at the landfill since last year. Consultants determined that the previous practice of mixing household waste with construction and demolition (C&D) waste created the gas.

While detectable at very minute amounts by the human nose, low levels of exposure to hydrogen sulfide are not considered harmful, according to the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA).

The latest information and a form for reporting landfill odors can be found online at ocfl.net/LandfillOdor or residents may call the Solid Waste Hotline at 407-836-6601.

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About Orange County Government: Orange County Government strives to serve its citizens and guests with integrity, honesty, fairness and professionalism. Located in Central Florida, Orange County includes 13 municipalities and is home to world famous theme parks, the nation’s second largest convention center, and a thriving life science research park. Seven elected members make up the Board of County Commissioners including the Mayor who is elected countywide. For more information please visit www.OCFL.net or go to Orange County on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Interim State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

May 10, 2016

Mr. Jim Becker, Manager
Orange County Utilities
Solid Waste Division
9150 Curry Ford Road
Orlando, Florida 32829

Re: Hydrogen Sulfide from the Orange County Landfill, Young Pine Road

Dear Mr. Becker:

In February of this year, a resident near the Orange County Landfill on Young Pine Road complained to the Florida Department of Health (DOH) that odor from the landfill had become unbearable. This resident also complained of a scratchy throat and headache when the odor was bad. Orlando TV and newspapers reported similar complaints by other nearby residents. In March, DOH decided to evaluate the public health threat from hydrogen sulfide gas associated with this landfill. DOH, in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, evaluates the public health threat at hazardous waste sites.

Review of Existing Data

DOH reviewed the December 2015 Landfill Odor Source Evaluation Report prepared by SCS Engineers/HSA Golden Joint Venture. We also reviewed additional hydrogen sulfide data you provided. Thank you for providing this information.

Although Orange County has measured hydrogen sulfide levels at various times on numerous days, the above data are none-the-less inadequate to assess the public health threat. Levels of hydrogen sulfide from landfills can change hourly and often peak at varying times overnight when the winds are relatively calm. Therefore, testing so far may not have measured the highest concentrations of hydrogen sulfide in neighboring communities.

Recommendations

To evaluate the public health threat, DOH recommends continuous hydrogen sulfide monitoring in nearby residential areas. We recommend measurements 30 seconds in duration every 30 minutes, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for 3 months. We also recommend recording wind speed and direction.

We recommend placement of hydrogen sulfide monitors in three locations.

- We recommend placement of one monitor near residences 1 mile **northwest** of the landfill. Residents in this area are closest and made the greatest number of documented odor complaints (Figure 3, December 2015 odor source report).

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- We recommend a second monitor near residences 2 miles **southwest** of the landfill. Residents in this area are the second closest and complained of odors.
- We recommend a third monitor near residences 3 miles **northeast** of the landfill. Residents in this area also complained of odors.

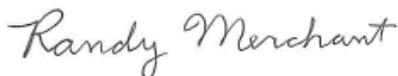
We recommend monitoring during the summer when higher temperatures and rainfall can increase hydrogen sulfide production. We also recommend an instrument with a detection limit of at least 3 parts per billion such as the Jerome 631-X (Arizona Instruments).

Recent Hydrogen Sulfide Studies

For more information about recent hydrogen sulfide investigations, contact Escambia County senior scientist J. Taylor "Chips" Kirschenfeld (jtkirsche@myescambia.com, 850-595-1630). Escambia County is currently monitoring hydrogen sulfide levels around the Rolling Hills C&D landfill. A recent DOH assessment of the public health threat from hydrogen sulfide at this landfill is online at: www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/hazardous-waste-sites/_documents/r/rollinghills060215.pdf.

Thank you again for sharing the hydrogen sulfide data collected to date. Please contact me at 850-245-4249 if you have any questions about these recommendations.

Sincerely,



E. Randall Merchant
Environmental Administrator
Public Health Toxicology

RM/dt

cc: David Overfield, DOH in Orange County
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