



Woodland Meadows

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July 27, 2023

Mr. Jonathan Lamb
Senior Environmental Quality Analyst
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Air Quality Division
3058 West Grand Boulevard
Suite 2-300
Detroit, MI 48202

Re: Response to Violation Notice – July 7, 2023
Woodland Meadows RDF – Van Buren

Dear Mr. Lamb:

Waste Management of Michigan, Inc. (“WMMI”) has prepared this response to the Violation Notice (“NOV”) from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (“EGLE”) dated July 7, 2023. The NOV alleges that odors were observed during an EGLE inspection conducted on Thursday, July 6, 2023. By responding to the NOV, WMMI does not make any admissions of fact or law, nor does it waive any potential defenses.

The NOV alleges that “Strong (Level 4 and 5), offensive garbage and wastewater treatment sludge – type odors observed emitting from the facility and impacting nearby residential areas”. WMMI did not detect any garbage or sludge odors off-site that day, but any odors detected on-site were perceived to be garbage and not sludge odors.

Earlier this year WMMI implemented a protocol for sludge load acceptance. Incoming sludge loads are randomly inspected at the active face by a landfill representative to check the odor level of the load, and highly odorous loads may be rejected and the customer is notified. WMMI has worked with our sludge customers to ensure that the sludges are properly treated and managed at the generation site, prior to shipping to Woodland Meadows RDF. We believe that these efforts have been successful in minimizing sludge related odors at the landfill. However, upon investigation of the July 6 complaint, we learned that one of our sludge customers had run out of odor control agent on July 5, and had shipped loads without proper odor control on July 6. WMMI has clearly communicated its expectation to the customer - that if the customer experiences challenges with its odor control equipment in the future, it must notify WMMI before shipping any loads.

WMMI installed an odor suppression system last fall at Woodland Meadows RDF, which distributes an odor control agent along the eastern perimeter of the landfill. An inordinate number of outages have been experienced in July for the electric service that powers the odor

Mr. Jonathan Lamb
July 27, 2023
Page 2

suppression system, including a period of outage on July 6. The odor suppression system must be manually restarted after power is restored.

WMMI is installing a call-out system that will notify site personnel when the power is out. WMMI will be able to immediately contact DTE to report the outage, and can then be notified by DTE when power is restored. The odor suppression system can then be restarted as quickly as possible. WMMI is also working with DTE to find a way to improve the reliability of its electric service.

Additionally, the July 4th holiday pushed trash collection back one day. Residents and customers are frequently unsure as to when the pickup will occur, so they bring their trash out on the scheduled day. Thus, it sits out in the sun an extra day before being collected. Although WMMI was notified of a potential odor issue on July 5, it was investigated and in conjunction with a Wayne County solid waste inspector, determined not to be due to the Woodland Meadows site.

Please contact me at 734-231-8162 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Mazanec', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Mazanec, P.E.
District Engineer

cc: Jenine Camilleri, EGLE
Greg Morrow, EGLE
Patrick Cullen, Wayne County
Joe Read, WMMI