

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: Complaint Investigation

N571927940

FACILITY: ORCHARD HILL SANITARY LANDFILL	SRN / ID: N5719
LOCATION: 3290 HENNESEY RD, WATERVLIET	DISTRICT: Kalamazoo
CITY: WATERVLIET	COUNTY: BERRIEN
CONTACT: Chip Shaw,	ACTIVITY DATE: 12/05/2014
STAFF: Matthew Deskins	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance
SUBJECT: Odor Complaint Investigation	SOURCE CLASS: MAJOR
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:	

At approximately 11:30 a.m. on December 5, 2014 AQD staff (Matt Deskins) received a complaint that was sent in via e-mail from Sue Herman of Karma Vista Vineyards in Coloma. Sue was writing to complain about the odor/stench that was coming from Orchard Hill Landfill (OHLF) and entering their winery's retail building (See Attached Complaint Log and e-mail). This had been the 3rd complaint received about odors from the landfill in the last couple of days and staff wanted to get out there as soon as possible to investigate. Staff departed the district office at approximately 12:00 p.m.

NOTE: The DEQ (mainly OWMRP) had been getting a lot of complaints over the past year regarding odors from the landfill and a lot of the complainants were directing them to Representative Al Psholka's office as well. Because of that, a couple of town hall meetings ended up being held with Representative Al Psholka, the DEQ, OHLF, and the citizens of Watervliet and Coloma. One of the results of that meeting was that citizens were asked to call and/or e-mail the DEQ, the OHLF's community hotline, and Representative Psholka's office any time the odors were directly impacting them.

Staff arrived on Ryno Road in front of Karma Vista Vineyards at approximately 12:45 p.m. Staff had noted prior to leaving the office that the winds in this area were supposed to be out of the South at 7 to 10 mph and the direction was confirmed upon arrival. Karma Vista is located directly north of OHLF on Ryno Road which runs east and west. Staff proceeded to make 4 passes down the length of Ryno Road at approximately 5 to 10 mph in the state vehicle. Staff could not detect any odors along the property owned by Karma Vista. Staff did note a very slight and intermittent waste/landfill gas smell approximately ¼ mile to the west of Karma Vista by the RV dealer. Staff would have rated it a 1 on the AQD odor scale. Staff then proceeded to drive the roads along the perimeter of the landfill just to see if any odors might be detected in any other areas. None were noted. During this drive staff saw Lee Anne Thor of the OWMRP division also circling the landfill and was able to stop her. She said she had been out on another complaint that morning and Fred Sellers (OWMRP Kalamazoo District Supervisor) asked her to check in on the complaint from Sue Herman on her way back. Staff asked if she had been able to detect any landfill odors and she said she couldn't either. It was then decided that she would follow up with Landfill personnel and I would stop in at Karma Vista Vineyards and talk with the Hermans.

Staff arrived at the vineyard at approximately 1:30 p.m. Staff then proceeded into the retail building and introduced them self to Sue Herman. Staff mentioned that they had received her e-mail complaint and that they tried to get down there as quickly as possible to investigate things. Sue then called up to her husband Joe who was upstairs to let him know that staff was there. Joe came down a couple minutes later. The following is a summary of topics brought up by Sue and/or Joe and staff's response/conversation with them.

Staff mentioned to both Sue and Joe that Lee Anne and I could not detect any odors at the present time, although I did detect a faint and intermittent waste/landfill gas odor by the RV center. Sue stated that the odors did dissipate pretty quickly after she opened their retail store. She also mentioned that Chris Phillips from OHLF responded to her call to them and he stated that they had been working on some gas wells that morning. Staff then gave Sue some updated DEQ contact information since Katie Venechuk (Former OWMRP Engineer) had taken another position. Sue and Joe then asked staff questions about the following:

Life expectancy of OHLF and will new landfills be allowed: Staff mentioned that this isn't their area of expertise but did say that to their knowledge it is hard to get a new landfill permitted. Most existing landfills are just getting larger so OHLF probably will not be closing any time soon.

Are Odors from the Gas Plant: Staff stated to them with confidence that the odors (landfill gas) they are

detecting are not coming from the gas plant. Staff explained that the gas collection and control systems used by landfills are estimated to be up to 80 percent efficient, so that leaves potentially 20% of the landfill gas being generated uncontrolled (fugitive).

Landfill Location, GCCS Efficiencies, and Meteorological Conditions: Staff mentioned these three things make dealing with odors from the landfill very difficult. Staff mentioned that the landfill is located in one of the lowest areas around. Between that, the GCCS efficiencies, and meteorological conditions, there will probably always be odors detected from the landfill even if the GCCS is being operated to its maximum efficiency.

Rule 901: Factors to take into account, subjectivity, etc.: Staff mentioned that the landfill is currently in compliance with all air regulations. The only thing currently that the AQD could do in regards to regulatory compliance and odors is to determine if a Rule 901 (Nuisance) has occurred. Staff went on to state a Rule 901 can be made if the frequency, duration, and intensity of the odors from the landfill can be determined by DEQ staff. Staff also stated that this would need documentation by staff in person and that we have to show it is directly impacting the person who sends in the complaint. Staff also mentioned that odors are viewed as subjective depending on the person which can make it difficult as well.

Trees that were removed: Joe mentioned that the landfill cleared a large area of trees to the SW and thought the odor issue has been more prevalent since they can help trap odors. Staff stated they couldn't speak to that being the case but did say that trees can act as barriers to certain things.

Trying Alternate Methods of Odor Control: Joe mentioned how copper is used in different biological break down processes and thought that the landfill could try spraying a copper solution every day to possibly adsorb the odors that would be emitted. We also discussed windmills and/or wind turbines to possibly mix up the air during the evening and early morning hours so it isn't just "sitting" there. Staff did not dismiss either idea but said the DEQ can't force the landfill to try any of these things. Joe also mentioned using infrared cameras to see where anything might be emitted from the landfill. Staff mentioned that the landfill currently does quarterly surface emissions monitoring and that the infrared camera might be something that could be looked into, but again, the DEQ can't force the landfill into doing things if in compliance with regulatory requirements. After quite a bit of discussion on the preceding things, staff told them that they would follow-up with Fred Sellers and Mary Douglas (AQD District Supervisor) about it.

They thanked staff for their time and for coming to check on the complaint. Staff departed at approximately 2:45 p.m. and will consider the complaint resolved.

NAME Matt Deak

DATE 12-8-14

SUPERVISOR MB 12/8/2014