

# HIGH ACRES LANDFILL

## ODOR ABATEMENT UPDATE



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

March 6, 2018

DEC is committed to addressing the problem of odors originating from the Waste Management (WM) High Acres Landfill and issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to WM on February 2, 2018 requiring them to take several actions to address odors at the facility. This fact sheet provides a summary of activities to date, including actions taken under the NOV and we will continue to keep the community updated on our actions.

### ACTIVITIES TO DATE

#### November, 2017

- Residents first contacted DEC management to express concern that odor issues from the High Acres Landfill had not been rectified and seek additional DEC intervention with the situation.
- DEC immediately contacted WM requesting a plan to address the issues and increased inspections.

#### December, 2017

- NYSDEC Commissioner Basil Seggos wrote WM demanding an expeditious resolution and requiring a response within five days.
- WM responded to the Commissioner, acknowledging the issue, committed to address it, and provided a list of actions to be taken, the last of which would be implemented by 3/31/18.
- DEC met with WM representatives on December 13 to review the situation.
- DEC requested a report from WM be submitted expeditiously and urged WM to directly advise residents and Town Officials about issues and planned actions.
- WM submits first of monthly reports to DEC and commences regular updates to the community.

#### January 2018

- DEC held discussions with the Town of Perinton and Perinton Conservation Board (PCB).
- A significant vibration event impacts the neighborhood;
- WM continues monthly reports and community updates describing measures undertaken and/or completed
- DEC received PCB recommendations
- Anti -Vibration system is installed to address the prior incident that caused the vibration event.

#### February 2018

- On February 2, DEC issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) with a series of expectations and requirements, including:
  - Ambient air monitoring at the Dudley/Northside Elementary School campus and in areas surrounding the landfill,
  - Several steps to improve landfill gas collection at the facility, including expediting measures that previously would not have been implemented until as late as 2023.
  - Additional measures outlined in the NOV are available by going to [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov) and typing "High Acres Landfill" in the search box.
- DEC met with WM, the Town of Perinton Supervisor and the PCB regarding further details on implementation of new requirements;
- DEC sent a response to PCB Recommendations.
- DEC further enhanced its presence by deploying Law Enforcement details, including weekend patrols and immediate response to residents' complaints.

## STATUS OF ODOR / VIBRATION ABATEMENT MEASURES

Under DEC supervision, since Mid-November of 2017 the following measures have been implemented by WM to improve the gas collection and control system at High Acres to reduce odors and eliminate reverberations:

1. Removed a restriction in the 24-inch gas header which impacted efficiency of the collection system;
2. Designed and installed approximately 10,000 lineal feet of horizontal gas collection piping, and replaced, or installed other gas collection equipment in Cells 10 and 11 to improve the efficiency;
3. Installed synthetic liner in the roadside drainage swale in Cell 11 to prevent escape of fugitive gas;
4. Installed approximately 9-acres of geo-membrane cover on the North Slopes of Cells 10 and 11;
5. Installed a "jumper header" (new gas line) 1,600' (length) by 18/24" (diameter) to improve collection;
6. Installed an automated control system to monitor and control the landfill gas blowers if low levels of reverberations begin on either flare;
7. Revised the Gas Collection Phasing plan for Cell 12 to include additional horizontal/well spacing.

## STATUS OF COMPLIANCE WITH NOTICE OF VIOLATION

To date, WM has made on-time delivery of the submissions required by the NOV, which are briefly described below, and implementation of additional requirements remains ongoing.

- Complete odor abatement measures from December Plan: On schedule
- Requirement for horizontal gas collectors: Being implemented for all new cells, and the retrofit of existing cells is in progress, with completion due in March;
- Discontinuing the use of Cell 11 until the odor issue is resolved will be implemented when the retrofit is complete;
- The geo-membrane design has been approved, materials delivered and implementation is underway for the installation of an additional 9 acres;
- Air monitoring at the Dudley / Northside school: the 2-16-18 report was received; and the 90-day monitoring program is expected to commence on or before 3/8/18.
- Quarterly surface scans with H<sub>2</sub>S monitoring will be implemented at the next required scan due in March;
- Real time H<sub>2</sub>S monitoring at the perimeter of the facility is expected to begin no later than 3/8/18 Vibration prevention measures have been installed and delivery of the Standard Operating procedures has been done.
- Back-up power Plan: Received
- Sample of landfill gas: taken on schedule and results are pending

## NEXT STEPS

- **WM will install additional geo-membrane cover** on the South and East slopes of Cell 11 (see above). Materials are on site, trenching and pipe installation for the gas collection which will be under the geo-membrane has begun. Depending on weather, the target completion date is 3/31/18.
- **WM will continue to identify, replace and repair landfill gas collection wells, laterals, and headers** as needed, and the wells are now being monitored more frequently per the newly imposed requirements;
- **Monthly updates** on mitigation progress to NYSDEC and the Town of Perinton Conservation Board will continue as the remaining measures are completed;
- **Email notifications** for neighbors, state and local officials regarding completed and upcoming site activities (Community Updates) will continue;
- **All gas collection mitigation efforts in cells 10 and 11 such as trenching, laying pipe, or vertical well drilling which require intrusion into "old" waste, an activity which has caused significant odors will be complete by the end of March 2018.** The remainder of the retrofit, which includes the placement of sufficient waste to allow the new gas collectors to function, then the installation of soil to get a proper slope and the placement of cover, may take into April 2018.
- **No later than March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018**, an addendum to the facility's Operation and Maintenance Manual incorporating the new requirements will be submitted and once approved will be incorporated into the facility's permit to ensure enforceability and applicability of these new requirements going forward.
- **Enhanced DEC presence** will continue as necessary, including weekends;
- **Ambient Monitoring in all four directions at the facility and school will begin no later than March 8, 2018.** Results will be available, and the monitoring plan is available on the Town's website.

For more information regarding DEC's ongoing actions, please contact DEC at [region8@dec.ny.gov](mailto:region8@dec.ny.gov)