

High Acres Landfill Odor Abatement Timeline

NYS Solid Waste Program

425 Perinton Parkway, Fairport

2015

- Landfill begins accepting rail waste.

2017

NOVEMBER

- DEC management contacted by citizens living in close proximity to High Acres Landfill (“HA”) regarding odors.
- Waste Management (“WM”) begins installing geomembrane liner in the cell 11 haul road ditch.
- WM commences work on gas collection improvements.

DECEMBER

- DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos sends a letter to WM demanding an expeditious resolution to the issue and a response to the letter within five days. WM acknowledges the odor issue and commits to address it by including a list of actions the facility planned to take by March 2018.
- WM holds community information meeting.
- Meeting between DEC and WM regarding odor issue.
- WM commences installation of 9-acre geomembrane cover over the north and east slopes of cells 10 and 11.

2018

JANUARY

- Flare vibration event. WM installs antivibration system.
- WM installs 9-acre geomembrane cover over the north and east slopes of cells 10 and 11.
- WM installs gas collection header to boost landfill gas collection and continues work on installing other gas conveyance piping.
- WM relocates waste placement operations into cell 12 (lower elevation) to reduce off-site odors.

FEBRUARY

- DEC issues Notice of Violation (“NOV”) to WM for off-site odors.
- DEC initiates odor details (consisting of Environmental Conservation Officers and other DEC staff) to be present in the surrounding neighborhoods to assess conditions and to respond to and support – in real time – concerned residents.
- WM installs 18 gas wells in cells 10 and 11.
- WM commences installation of 9 additional acres of geomembrane cover on cell 11 as directed by DEC in the NOV.
- WM installs new, automated gas units to better monitor the gas collection system.
- WM installs lateral gas conveyance piping.
- WM begins installation of horizontal gas collectors in cells 11 and 12A at the frequency required in new 6 NYCRR Part 363 regulations (“Part 363”) as directed by DEC in the NOV.
- WM collects samples of landfill gas for laboratory analysis as directed by DEC in the NOV.

MARCH

- WM commences ambient air monitoring for H₂S at the landfill and at Dudley/Northside schools as directed by DEC in the NOV.
- WM commences quarterly enhanced surface monitoring of the landfill for methane using the more conservative 200 ppm (parts per million) threshold as directed by DEC in the NOV.
- WM holds community information meeting.

APRIL

- DEC establishes a telephone hotline (“Hotline”) for residents, seeking to better elicit details about any odor incident they experienced.
- DEC creates a High Acres Landfill page on its website to help disseminate information and updates.

MAY

- WM completes installation of utility flare for increased collection of gas from newer landfill cells.

JUNE

- Odor complaints drop off precipitously. DEC reduces extended staff coverage in the surrounding neighborhoods.
- DEC develops an electronic form (“Citizen Odor Log”) which residents can use to provide the same information as that requested in response to Hotline calls.

JULY

- DEC receives the petition submitted by Linda Shaw, Esq. on behalf of certain residents and the group Fresh Air for the East Side (“FAFE”) requesting modification of WM’s facility permits.
- DEC approves updates to the landfill Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Manual. The updates, some of which are required by the NOV, include on-going installation of horizontal gas collectors in accordance with the newer, more stringent Part 363 regulations; a new backup power plan; and updates to the waste stream approval procedures, soil cover requirements, gas monitoring, and the odor control plan.

AUGUST

- DEC notifies Monroe County that sludge from the VanLare municipal Waste Water Treatment Plant is likely contributing to the odor situation; the county takes corrective action.
- WM completes installation of the gas well dewatering system for cells 8,9,10 and 11.

SEPTEMBER

- WM commences construction of 25 acres of engineered soil cover on cells 10 and 11 and agrees to keep 1 acre of geomembrane cover on-site or readily available for emergency use.

OCTOBER

- WM completes majority of engineered soil cover project; remaining work to be completed in 2019.
- DEC directs WM to submit a Comprehensive Odor Control Plan along with a design for implementation.
- DEC directs WM to build and have ready for use at least 18 months of constructed, surplus cell capacity available on an on-going basis to provide operational flexibility related to odor control.
- DEC directs WM to submit a revised, comprehensive, and updated Gas collection and Control System (“GCCS”) Plan.
- DEC directs WM to expedite submittal of the first phase of the Waste Characterization Study concerning the analysis of logistics (e.g., the origin, location, collection and transport time for the waste streams, whether transported by rail or truck) and addressing any issues of concern with CSX (e.g., related to scheduling /delivery at the landfill).
- WM submits GCCS Plan.

2018 – Continued

NOVEMBER

- DEC approves the use of Enviro-Cover alternative daily cover on a trial basis. The cover consists of ballasted plastic sheeting that covers the waste and reduces the need to strip cover (which can result in odor).

DECEMBER

- WM commences the Waste Characterization Study directed by the town of Perinton and supported by the DEC.

2019

JANUARY

- WM begins re-directing (to an out of state facility) approximately one-third of the volume of waste which had previously been transported by rail from New York City to HA.

FEBRUARY

- WM completes installation of standby generator to provide emergency backup power to the enclosed landfill gas flares and power plant #1 as required by the NOV.

MARCH

- DEC issues a comprehensive Response to FAFE's petition to modify the facility permits.
- WM completes first phase of the Waste Characterization Study.

MAY

- WM substantially completes construction of enhanced soil cover.

JULY

- DEC approves the Comprehensive Odor Control Plan and Design.
- DEC approves further update to the landfill O&M Manual. The approval allows WM to utilize the Enviro-cover product on a permanent basis and memorializes their commitment not to place waste on the plateau area at the top of cells 10 and 11 through the duration of the existing permit and only thereafter with DEC approval.
- WM holds an Open House event for residents.

AUGUST

- DEC acknowledges to WM that the specific measures contained in the NOV have been implemented.

NOVEMBER

- WM completes second phase of the Waste Characterization Study to determine the extent and nature of odor sources during warm-weather months.
- WM implements the first two phases of the Comprehensive Odor Control Study including installation of the system to the north near Rt. 31F and extension of the site perimeter odor neutralizer distribution lines.

On-going Items:

- DEC continues to have a regular presence at the facility, and as necessary off site in the neighborhoods, through its on-site environmental monitor and its project engineers.
- WM conducts ambient air monitoring for H₂S continuously at the Dudley/Northside schools and quarterly at the landfill perimeters.
- WM continues limiting acceptance of odorous wastes with DEC input. DEC continues to evaluate certain waste streams.
- DEC continues to provide on-going evaluation and analysis of all odor notifications and complaints, associated response information, and places return phone calls to residents who call via the hotline.
- On-going cell design and construction includes horizontal gas collectors at the frequency required under Part 363 regulations and takes into account the directive to have 18 months of surplus cell capacity available.