The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) remains committed to addressing odors originating from the Waste Management (WM) High Acres Landfill, located in the towns of Perinton, Monroe County, and Macedon, Wayne County.

New York State’s top priority is ensuring that area residents are not exposed to any potential site-related health or safety hazards. DEC continues to rigorously oversee all operations at the WM facility and continues to respond to community concerns about odors and address any impacts on quality of life. In addition, DEC continues to work with WM to minimize odors and implement air monitoring.

Recent and continuing actions include:

**Real-time monitoring for pollutants and other air quality issues:** DEC partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to perform real-time monitoring for pollutants and other air quality issues using a specialized vehicle equipped to help isolate and attribute emissions to specific sources. EPA recently tested air quality at the landfill and in public areas surrounding the facility. Upon conclusion of the sampling performed by EPA’s mobile air monitoring vehicle, or ‘GMAP’, DEC will analyze the results provided, share the information with the community, and identify any necessary actions to address the data received.

**Continuous ambient air monitoring for hydrogen sulfide (H₂S):** H₂S monitoring is underway at the Dudley/Northside school campus and a monitoring point north of the landfill near the Magnolia Manor community. A continuous air monitoring point was added to the south of the landfill. Since monitoring began in 2018, H₂S readings remain below the State’s Ambient Air Quality Standard which are protective of public health and the environment.

**Methane monitoring:** Surface scans on the landfill take place four times a year for methane. DEC requires corrective measures when methane is found at a concentration that is less than half of what federal regulations require.
**Geomembrane cover:** DEC authorized WM to install an exposed geomembrane cover over portions of Cell 12 to further minimize odor. This geomembrane was installed under DEC oversight as intermediate cover over 8.4 acres of Cell 12 in 2021. An additional 3.3 acres of Cell 12 is planned for 2022.

**Diversion of rail waste:** Through a voluntary agreement with DEC, WM continued diverting a substantial amount of rail waste away from High Acres to out-of-state landfills during 2020 and 2021. WM and the town of Perinton negotiated to further lower the amount of rail waste as part of the Host Community Agreement, which took effect December 28, 2021.

**Odor neutralizer distribution lines:** WM installed odor neutralizer distribution lines in 2020 and 2021 to expand the previously existing network as directed by the approved Comprehensive Landfill Odor Control Plan.

In addition, DEC continues to require the presence of an on-site monitor (a DEC employee) to oversee regulatory compliance at High Acres and respond to potential odor events or other operational issues that could create off-site impacts.

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REPORT ODOR COMPLAINTS

For the fastest response, call DEC’s 24-hr. dedicated High Acres Odor Reporting Hotline: 585-453-2416

This system is the best way for DEC and WM to respond directly, evaluate the situation, speak with residents and address community concerns. Towpath Investigative Services, a third-party odor detection consultant, responds to and investigates hotline calls. DEC personnel also respond to and investigate hotline calls when available. Data they collect is used to evaluate the effectiveness of WM’s mitigation steps, and to determine if further action is needed.

DEC encourages the community to regularly check the following websites for any updates on facility operations that could be creating off-site impacts:

**New link! WM Operational Updates:** [https://highacres.wixsite.com/operationalupdates](https://highacres.wixsite.com/operationalupdates)
**Town of Perinton:** [https://perinton.org/departments/public-works/environmental-compliance-2/high-acres-landfill/](https://perinton.org/departments/public-works/environmental-compliance-2/high-acres-landfill/)

Stay informed with DEC Delivers and sign up to receive this community update and news and events from Region 8: