

Arbor Hills Landfill Odor Issue

Site Background

-Arbor Hills Landfill is a 337-acre municipal, Type II solid waste landfill located in northeast Washtenaw County at 10690 West Six Mile Road. The landfill is under the general ownership and operation of Advance Disposal. Landfill gas is actively collected, treated, and processed in the adjacent landfill gas-to-energy turbine plant owned and operated by Fortistar Methane Group or alternatively in the two enclosed flares owned by Republic Services. Advance Disposal also operates a yard waste composting area directly across from the landfill on 6 Mile.

-The facility has been operating at this location for decades and is regulated by both Federal and State Air Pollution Control, and Solid Waste Management regulations (among other state and local regulations). The Arbor Hills Landfill has obtained the required permits and regularly undergoes compliance inspections and evaluations.

-A municipal solid waste landfill, also referred to as a Type II landfill, is a landfill that is designed to receive household wastes, waste from construction and demolition, commercial and industrial waste, sewage sludge, and non-hazardous sludge.

-When food and other organic waste breaks down, it produces what is called landfill gas. Due to the potential quantity of gas produced, landfills are required to manage their gas either by collecting it through a series of wells and piping (active gas collection system) for subsequent sale, use, or flaring.

Responsible Parties

-Arbor Hills Landfill has an active gas collection system that is operated by Republic Services. The same company is responsible for the closed eastern portion of the landfill. Republic Services is responsible for maintaining the infrastructure of the gas collection system for the entire site.

-Advanced Disposal is the waste disposal company responsible for the western half of the landfill, including the active portions.

-Fortistar Methane Group operates the gas to energy plant and purchases the landfill gas from Republic.

Odor Issue

- Landfill gas is comprised of mostly methane and carbon dioxide with a small amount of non-methane organic chemicals (NMOCs). The foul odor is mostly attributed to sulfide compounds and ammonia in the landfill gas, generated due to the microbial decomposition of the solid wastes.

-The first odor complaint related to this issue was sent to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on January 4, 2016, and the number of complaints began to dramatically increase mid to late January.

-The DEQ, together with the facility, has determined that the source of the odor is landfill gas coming from the newly constructed and recently filled (over the past two years) north side of the landfill that borders 6 Mile Road.

-The DEQ issued a violation notice for both Advanced Disposal and Republic Services on February 2, 2016, for producing offsite nuisance odors. The violation notice requested that the

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companies respond by February 15, 2016, with an action plan to outline the gas collection system upgrades that will address the odor issue.

Construction Update

- Advanced Disposal and Republic Services are coordinating to add gas collection systems to the north side of the site.
- The construction began the week of February 1, 2016, and significant progress is being made.
- According to communication from the facility on February 9, 2016, two construction companies have drilled a total of thirteen gas collection wells, connected three to the rest of the gas control system, and welded 3500 linear feet of pipe. Nearly 30 construction workers are working to get construction finished.
- Odor issues are expected to improve as more wells are connected to the gas collection system.
- If there are no delays, the facility is expected to finish the construction by the beginning of next week (February 15, 2016).

Who to Contact

-For information regarding the most recent construction updates or to report odor issues directly to the facility, call the hotline set up by Advanced Disposal. Tom Flannagan, the Operations Manager, said he would return calls if a name and number are provided. The number is **(248) 305-8432**.

-If you have questions you want to direct to the DEQ or if you'd like an Odor Survey Form, you can contact any of the following staff:

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