

Rumpke Landfill Odor Information – Update

Odors from Rumpke Sanitary Landfill may be caused by gas, garbage or a combination. Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency is working with Ohio EPA, U.S. EPA, Hamilton County Public Health, Colerain Township, Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) and Rumpke to protect human health and reduce odor issues at Rumpke Landfill in Colerain Township.

Overview

Methane gas is produced when garbage breaks down in a landfill. Rumpke installed a gas collection system to extract this methane and process it for use as natural gas.

During fall 2009, Rumpke reported elevated temperatures and poor gas quality in some of the gas extraction wells. This reaction is deep within the waste mass and can cause odor control issues that may impact residents depending on wind speed, wind direction and barometric pressure. Vacuum is applied to these gas collection wells for routing to a utility flare where odorous gases are destroyed.



Flares incinerate odorous gases

In addition to utility flares, Rumpke uses an odor control blanket and a deodorizing operation to help contain and control odors. No hazardous air pollutants are emitted from the deodorizing operation.

Odor Control Blanket

In an effort to control increased odors, Rumpke installed a covering called an Odor Control Blanket (OCB) – which is intended to trap and contain odors – over the affected area at the north end of the landfill.

A total of 56 acres of OCB cover the reaction area. A portion of the OCB can be seen from U.S. 27 in Colerain Township. Since 2013, Rumpke has installed a new OCB that contains a plastic barrier layer. This plastic film helps reduce the amount of gas escaping through the blanket. This new OCB is installed on top of the existing OCB. Rumpke personnel continuously inspect the OCB for tears and makes repairs to help reduce odors.



Odor Control Blanket

Utility Flare

The utility flares are used to burn lower methane gas from the reaction area to assist with odor control. In January 2013, Rumpke moved the two utility flares from a side-by-side location to help achieve better gas collection from the reaction area. There is now a flare located on the eastern side of the reaction area and the other is on the western side of the landfill.

Monitoring Information

Experts from local, state and federal agencies are working with Rumpke to monitor and control the abnormal conditions in the affected area. The Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency continues to follow-up on complaints and performs routine air sampling around the landfill. Although off-site odors continue, based on an ongoing review of the air emission data collected there are no short-term or long-term health threats.

More information can be found at SouthwestOhioAir.org/colerain_township/routine_air_sampling.

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