

Contact: Megan Hummel, Public Affairs Specialist  
Phone: 513-946-7808  
E-mail: [megan.hummel@hamilton-co.org](mailto:megan.hummel@hamilton-co.org)  
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## **AGENCIES MONITORING INCREASED ODORS AT RUMPKE**

**HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO** – Local and state agencies are currently monitoring a situation causing an increase in odors at Rumpke Sanitary Landfill. Approximately 20 citizen complaints about odors in Colerain Township were received Thursday evening through Friday morning.

Methane is collected from the decomposing waste at Rumpke Sanitary Landfill and processed into natural gas. As a result of a reaction occurring in certain landfill gas recovery wells located in the northern section of the landfill temperatures in these wells are elevated and additional odors are present. The reaction is deep within the waste mass, rather than at the surface.

A team comprised of Ohio EPA, U.S. EPA, Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH), Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES), Colerain Fire – representing Colerain Township, Rumpke and Montauk Energy have been monitoring elevated well temperatures for several months and working to remedy the situation.

Vacuum is applied to gas collection wells for processing or routing to a utility flare where gases are incinerated. The utility flare malfunctioned Thursday evening, causing an increase in odors from gas emissions. Until repairs can be completed, gases will be routed to an alternate incinerator.

HCPH and HCDOES have a continued presence at the landfill monitoring air quality and investigating odor complaints. Air sampling of the areas surrounding the landfill does not indicate air pollution levels that would pose short or long term health effects. Comprehensive air samples were taken and will be submitted to an outside laboratory for analysis. All sampling to date indicates contaminants in the air are below health based standards.

“Odor levels are currently offensive and we understand that residents of Colerain Township find it unacceptable,” said Tim Ingram, Health Commissioner. “Along with Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services we are working diligently with Rumpke to improve the situation.”

Rumpke continues work cooperatively with local and state agencies on a comprehensive action plan to alleviate the disruption in the gas collection system while protecting health and safety and preventing nuisances.

“We apologize for the impacts associated with this present situation,” said Jeff Rumpke, vice president at Rumpke. “We want the public to know we live and work in this neighborhood too that we have been and will continue working on this situation. We are implementing every possible measure to minimize impacts.”

Residents may report odors 24 hours a day by calling 513-946-7879 during business hours and 513-946-7777 on weekends and evenings.

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