

# HIGH ACRES LANDFILL FACT SHEET



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

## ODOR ABATEMENT UPDATE – APRIL 2018

**Introduction.** The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) remains committed to addressing the problem of odors originating from the Waste Management (WM) High Acres Landfill and keeping area residents informed of ongoing actions. On February 2, 2018, DEC issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to WM requiring them to undertake several actions to address odors at the facility.

This fact sheet provides an update to the DEC fact sheets of March 6 and March 28, 2018. It will be posted along with all other relevant information regarding DEC's efforts, including sampling reports, on the Town of Perinton website <http://www.perinton.org/highacres-landfill>.

### STATUS OF COMPLIANCE WITH NOTICE OF VIOLATION

**To date, WM has made on-time delivery of the actions required by the NOV and has completed several of the requirements (see March 6 and March 28 updates). The following is a status of measures still underway by WM:**

- The installation of an additional 9 acres of geo-membrane cover was nearly complete until damaged by high winds on April 4, 2018. Immediate steps to repair this damage are being taken. (see below);
- Air monitoring for hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) gases at the Dudley / Northside school and around the perimeter of the landfill property continues. Results are provided to DEC and local officials and are now posted weekly on the [Town of Perinton website](#);
- The first-quarter surface scan with H<sub>2</sub>S monitoring has been completed, and a final report is being prepared. Preliminary results, subject to review and confirmation, indicate that exceedances of both the 200 ppm and 500 ppm action levels for methane occurred, and have since been addressed by WM as required by their air pollution control permit and applicable regulations.

### NEXT STEPS

- WM is repairing the damage from the wind event and will complete installation of additional geo-membrane cover on the south and east slopes of Cell 11 of the landfill. Replacement material installation is beginning the week of April 16, 2018 and is expected to be complete, weather permitting, by May 8, 2018;
- All gas collection mitigation efforts in Cells 10 and 11, which included trenching, laying pipe, or vertical well drilling that had previously caused odor issues, are complete. Additional waste continues to be placed to ensure proper function of the new gas collectors, followed by the installation and grading of cover soil for slope stability and surface water / gas control;
- Enhanced DEC presence will continue to assist residents and establish current conditions through direct observation, complaint response, and citizen interviews (see below).

### DEC'S NEW REPORTING HOTLINE - (585) 453-2416

DEC has established a more formal and comprehensive complaint response process to address issues and concerns of residents living near the High Acres Landfill. The new complaint system will allow DEC to respond directly to complaints, evaluate the situation, and talk directly to residents.

This new system provides a more effective method for DEC to address community concerns. The agency will use the information generated to evaluate the effectiveness of required mitigation steps taken by WM, and to determine if further steps are necessary. The data DEC has received from concerned residents to date has been valuable in helping to understand the extent of the concerns. We appreciate residents' efforts to alert us when problems arise.

## To report a complaint, call 585-453-2416

- An independent call center will answer the call and gather basic information such as name, address, phone number, location, type and duration of the observed complaint.
- That information will immediately be emailed to a DEC responder.
- DEC will have complaint response personnel in the neighborhoods from early morning until late evening, including weekends as needed, to respond and meet with the complainant as soon as possible. Calls placed after 10:00 PM and prior to 6:00 AM will be followed up on as soon as possible.
- DEC responders will ask for as many specifics about the event as possible, such as the time the odor was noticed, when it ended (if it is not ongoing when the responder arrives), how strong it was, and other relevant information. These visits will be short to avoid imposing on resident's time.
- Response personnel will document residents' information and note their personal observations of the conditions in the neighborhood at the time of response.

This system will improve DEC's ability to assess any continuing significant issue, including:

- Collection of more comprehensive, real time, and useful information from the people impacted.
- Simultaneous assessment of conditions at specific locations, leading to a better accounting of reports.
- Address concerns that the existing WM complaint hotline is unresponsive.
- Complaint logs will be made available to the Towns of Perinton and Macedon and to residents upon request. WM will have real-time notification of complaints, and call logs and related records will be a part of the DEC file with respect to this facility.

DEC remains committed to fully addressing concerns regarding the landfill. Now that the work required by DEC to mitigate the problems with gas collection at the landfill is nearly complete, it is critical to be able to comprehensively assess the effectiveness of those measures and the current situation and conditions in the neighborhood. We encourage all residents to use the new hotline and assist with our efforts to effectively evaluate conditions and future actions.

**For more information regarding DEC's ongoing actions, please contact DEC.**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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