



York and Lancaster Odor Complaint Investigation April 9, 2021

On January 19, 2021, DHEC began receiving odor complaints described as paper mill, rotten egg, chemical, sewage, etc. from citizens in York and Lancaster counties and bordering areas of North Carolina. The number of odor related complaints received to date exceeds 5000. Some complainants are smelling the odor in their homes, some claim it is waking them up at night, and some state they can't stand to be outside. They are also reporting that the odors are making them feel nauseated, burning their eyes, throats and lungs, and giving them headaches.

DHEC implemented an investigation strategy to evaluate all regulated entities that could be potential sources of odor in York and Lancaster counties and established an electronic process to collect information from the public to aide in the odor investigation.

The following is the summary of activities related to the odor investigation.

The initial complaints indicated that the odors were similar to paper-mill odors. Initial assessments were conducted of odors near and around the New-Indy Catawba LLC facility, the complaint locations and in surrounding neighborhoods. New-Indy Catawba LLC was contacted regarding any process upsets and the facility provided a list of their venting episodes. After the first three (3) complaints had been received, a comprehensive air quality inspection was scheduled for February.

Air Emission Sources

An evaluation was done on air emission sources within Lancaster and York counties that could potentially have air emissions that could be contributing to the community odor concerns.

On February 22 and 23, 2021, a comprehensive, routine air quality inspection of New Indy Catawba, LLC (Air Quality Permit Number 2440-0005) was conducted.

Wikoff Color Corporation (Air Quality permit number 2440-0016), located at 1886 Merritt Road, Fort Mill and InChem (Air Quality permit number 2440-0062) located at 800 Celriver Road, Rock Hill were evaluated as possible sources. However, no information was found to indicate that either facility contributed to the odors.

Wastewater

The following wastewater treatment facility inspections have been conducted:

On January 26, 2021, Lancaster County Catawba River (NPDES permit SC 0046892), located at 1150 Lockwood Lane, Indian Land was inspected. No issues/violations were found.

On February 25, 2021, Country Oaks (NPDES permit SC 0039217), located at 5056 Country Oaks Drive, Rock Hill was inspected. No issues/violations were found.

On February 25, 2021, Shandon WWTP (NPDES permit SC0027189), located at 3090 Shandon Road, Rock Hill was inspected. No issues/violations were found.

On March 15 and 19, 2021, the New Indy Catawba, LLC WWTP (NPDES permit SC0001015) was inspected and the report finalized on April 7, 2021.

On March 30, 2021, Lancaster County, Indian Land WWTP (NPDES permit SC0047864), located at 7864 River Road, Indian Land, was inspected. No issues/violations were found.

The following wastewater facilities or operations have been assessed and no issues contributing to odors have been found:

Lancaster County Water and Sewer District (NPDES permit SC0046892 and NPDES permit SC0047864)

City of Rock Hill Manchester Creek (NPDES permit SC0020443)

Tega Cay (NPDES permits SC0026751 and SC002574)

Fort Mill WWTF (NPDES permit SC0020371)

Carwood Subdivision (NPDES permit SC0038113)

Foxwood Subdivision (NPDES permit SC0027146)

Rock Hill Manchester Creek (NPDES permit SC0020443)

CWS Inc. of NC Lamplighter Village South (NPDES permit SC0030112)

Synagro Land Application

A number of odor complaints referring to potential issues at WWTPs located in Waxhaw, NC were received by DHEC. DHEC has no jurisdiction in North Carolina (NC). The North Carolina Division of Air Quality (NC DAQ) conducted their own investigation into the odor complaints and released their findings in a report dated March 18, 2021.

Landfills

One potential cause for rotten egg odors at a landfill is having wet drywall within the landfill. Inspections were done of the following regulated landfills within Lancaster and York counties.

On March 8, 2021, New-Indy Catawba LLC (permit number 463318-1601), located at 5300 Cureton Ferry Road, Catawba, was inspected. No dry wall observed, and no odors detected.

On March 11, 2021, Mining Road Industrial (permit number 292440-1601), located at 2524 Mineral Mining Road, Kershaw, was inspected. No odor issues were detected at the site, and no drywall was observed at the facility.

On March 23, 2021, Coltharp C&D and LCD Landfill (permit number 462602-1201), located at 2425 Coltharp Rd., Fort Mill, was inspected. No odor issues were detected at the site. Noted one piece of drywall in the landfill.

On March 23, 2021, York County C&D and LCD Landfill (permit number 461001-1201), located at 289 Public Works Rd., York, was inspected. No odors were detected, and no drywall was observed at the site.

On March 23, 2021, Rogers C&D Landfill (permit number 462427-1201), located at 2752 Oak Park Road, Rock Hill, was inspected. No odors were detected, and no drywall was observed at the site.

On March 23, 2021, a site visit was conducted at Creekside (permit number 462748-1701), located at 2762 Anderson Rd. South. No odors were detected, and no drywall was observed at the site.

On March 23, 2021, a site visit was conducted at Pressley's (permit number 462655-3001), located at 9531 Charlotte Hwy, Fort Mill. The facility is no longer in operation, but a site visit was conducted as the site is under new ownership. The new owner is not disturbing any of the existing material. No odors were detected.

Community Odor Log Surveillance

DHEC established a Community Odor Log Surveillance Group on March 19, 2021. This small group of community members were asked to volunteer to keep a daily odor log and were instructed to contact DHEC at any time (24/7) when significant odor issues were detected. This information has been used to aid our surveillance activities. These surveillance activities validated the odors and traced them back to New-Indy Catawba LLC.

Conclusion:

Based on the information collected during the ongoing odor investigation, and the back trajectory and air modeling analyses, DHEC has determined that New-Indy Catawba, LLC is a significant contributor to the odors in York and Lancaster counties. At this time, we have not identified any other significant sources of odors.