



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

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July 14, 2008

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

Mr. Tim Vandersall  
General Manager  
Countywide Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF)  
3619 Gracemont Street S.W.  
East Sparta, OH 44626

**RE: LEACHATE OUTBREAK AT COUNTYWIDE RDF, STARK COUNTY  
NOTICE OF VIOLATION (NOV)**

Dear Mr. Vandersall:

On July 9, 2008, Lynn Sowers and I conducted a partial compliance inspection of Countywide RDF (Facility) to determine compliance with Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rule 3745-27-19. Upon inspection of the facility, it was discovered that a release of leachate had occurred earlier that morning and that crews were in the process of remediating the situation. Additional information concerning the specifics of the situation was requested to be provided as soon as possible.

On July 11, 2008, I received an email submitted by Todd Hamilton. The email details the summary of events that occurred concerning the leachate outbreak:

The leachate outbreak was first noticed at approximately 7:30 a.m. on July 9, 2008. Leachate was found to be seeping out around the area of the Cell 5 C/D side slope riser. From there leachate was flowing to the south perimeter surface water ditch, down to the south-west side slope let down pipes, and emptying into the forebay/silt trap at the head of sedimentation pond #2.

Steps were taken to evacuate the water from the forebay to be taken off site for treatment as leachate and to dike the outlet of the forebay in order to eliminate any pass through of liquids into the main pond. The outlet of pond #2 was observed and the Facility did not identify any impact at the outfall. The waters in the forebay and in the main pond were both field tested for chlorides. Additional samples were taken and sent away for laboratory analysis. Field testing verified that the forebay (47 to 55 ppm chlorides) was impacted by leachate but the main pond (16.6 to 18.4 ppm chlorides) was not impacted. Laboratory analysis of the water samples supported field testing and showed that the forebay (27.6, 47.9, and 58.9 ppm chlorides) was impacted while the main pond (16.6 and 18.4 ppm chlorides) was not.

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Since leachate was released from the landfill and was allowed to flow outside limits of waste placement and travel through surface water channels that are not designed to transport leachate, the Facility did not properly manage the leachate outbreak. The Facility is therefore in violation of the following:

**OAC Rules 3745-27-19(K)(1)(a) and (c)**: which state, in part: *"If a leachate outbreak occurs at the sanitary landfill facility, the owner or operator shall repair all outbreaks and...contain and properly manage the leachate..."* and *"take action to minimize, control, or eliminate the conditions which contribute to the production of leachate."*

Beginning on the morning of July 9, 2008, Ohio EPA finds the Facility returned to compliance with these rules by engaging in activities designed to minimize, control or eliminate the conditions which contributed to the production of leachate. Ohio EPA strongly advises the Facility to take more aggressive steps to prevent and address leachate outbreaks in this area.

It is believed by the Facility that the cause of the outbreak was due, in part, to the fact that the Facility had turned off the Cell 5 C/D leachate pump the night before in order to facilitate cleanout and maintenance of the leachate receiving tanks. Additional pressures and liquids were then inadvertently allowed to build up in the cell, resulting in the leachate outbreak. Once the pumps were turned back on it appeared that liquid pressure was alleviated.

The Facility intends to continue to evacuate the forebay of liquids and sediment in order to remove any contamination of leachate. Once this is completed pond #2 will be put back into service. The Facility also intends to improve the seal around the Cell 5 C/D riser to prevent future leachate outbreaks and notes that the conditions contributing to leachate outbreaks will be further addressed through the implementation of U.S. EPA's capping requirements in this area of the landfill.

In addition, the following ongoing violation continues to occur at the facility:

**OAC Rule 3745-27-19(E)(3)(a)**: which states, *"The owner or operator shall have adequate equipment, material, and services available at or near the facility to control fire. The owner or operator shall act immediately to control or extinguish any fire."*

The Director of Ohio EPA has determined that a fire is occurring at Countywide RDF, as detailed in the Director's Final Findings and Orders (Orders) dated March 28, 2007.

OAC Rule 3745-27-19(E)(3)(a) requires Countywide RDF to "act immediately to control or extinguish any fire." Countywide RDF remains in violation of OAC Rule 3745-27-19(E)(3)(a) because, as of the date of inspection, the fire is neither controlled nor extinguished; however, Ohio EPA acknowledges that Countywide RDF has entered

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into Orders with the Director that require the facility to undertake actions necessary to develop the remedy for this violation and further set forth a schedule to attain compliance with OAC Rule 3745-27-19(E)(3)(a). In light of this circumstance, Countywide RDF will remain in violation of OAC Rule 3745-27-19(E)(3)(a) until the fire is extinguished in accordance with the criteria as set forth in the Orders. Although Countywide RDF is undertaking extensive efforts to comply with the Orders, in the event that Countywide RDF falls delinquent in its performance under the Orders, be aware that further escalated enforcement action may follow to redress this serious violation.

Since Ohio EPA is in receipt of the email on July 11, 2008, the Facility is not required to respond to this NOV. However, if additional information or data becomes available related to this situation, the Facility shall provide the information to Ohio EPA as soon as practical.

Nothing in this letter shall be construed to authorize any waiver from the requirements of any applicable state or federal laws or regulations. This letter shall not be interpreted to release the owner or operator of Countywide RDF, or others, from responsibility under Chapters 3704., 3714., 3734., or 6111. of the Ohio Revised Code or under the Federal Clean Water or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Acts remedying conditions resulting from any release of contaminants to the environment.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at (330) 963-1103, or e-mail me at "[joshua.adams@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:joshua.adams@epa.state.oh.us)."

Sincerely,



Joshua Adams  
Environmental Specialist  
Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management

JA:cl

cc: Kirk Norris, Stark County Health Department  
Ed Gortner, DSIWM-CO  
Nicholas Bryan, AG Office  
File: [Land/Countywide/COR/76]

