



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ohio EPA Declares Countywide Landfill a Public Nuisance

Agency Orders Landfill to Reduce Odor; Asks U.S. EPA and ATSDR for Assistance

Citing hundreds of citizen complaints and the foul odor that continues to impact Stark and Tuscarawas counties, Ohio EPA Director Joseph Koncelik has declared the Countywide Landfill a public nuisance and ordered its owner and operator to get the problem corrected as soon as possible.

Republic Services of Ohio has until December 15, 2006, to eliminate the odor nuisance or face additional enforcement action which could include fines and other actions.

The orders require Republic to take additional measures to control odor leaving its landfill located at 3619 Gracemont Street S.W. in East Sparta. They include expanding the gas extraction system, performing additional monitoring and ensuring the landfill remains structurally sound.

Director Koncelik also has asked federal officials for assistance in eliminating the odor and assessing any potential impact to human health. Ohio EPA is in contact with U.S. EPA for expertise on decomposition of aluminum dross waste and subsurface fires and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry for input on health effects from odor exposure (ATSDR is an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services).

"The community has had to endure this terrible odor for too long," said Koncelik. "With today's actions, Ohio EPA is bringing together federal, state and local resources to get this complex situation resolved as soon as possible."

Since the beginning of 2006, the Canton Health Department has received more than 600 odor complaints related to the landfill. Preliminary air sampling indicated the odor does not pose a public health threat. Additional sampling is planned and results will be shared with local officials, Ohio Department of Health and ATSDR.

A copy of the orders is available at:
www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/enforcement/year_2006/year_2006.html.