

DATE: October 14, 2011

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

TO: Mayor and Members of City Council
FROM: Milton Dohoney, Jr., City Manager *MD*
SUBJECT: Rumpke Sanitary Landfill – Administrative Order

MSD has been working for some time now with management of the Rumpke Sanitary Landfill located at 10795 Hughes Road to address complaints from residents regarding offensive odors in the neighborhoods adjacent to the landfill. MSD identified the source of the problem as discharge of hot leachate coming from the landfill and entering MSD's wastewater collection system.

MSD's Division of Industrial Waste has determined that the current discharge permit with Rumpke is inadequate to prevent sewer odors in the downstream neighborhood. MSD is preparing to revoke Rumpke's current facility discharge permit under the authority of Section 2106, and reissue a new permit subsequent to a Show Cause hearing. Rumpke understands this and has indicated it will accept a reissued permit. MSD will work with Rumpke, Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES), Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH), and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) to craft a permit that requires strong interim measures, regular reporting, a pretreatment system by a specific due date, and a sustainable management plan to prevent leachate sewer odors in the downstream community.

MSD is taking this step based on quality of life concerns for its ratepayers. In addition, HCPH has indicated that although they have primacy over air quality in Hamilton County, the leachate odor problem in the downstream neighborhood is solely MSD's responsibility because MSD accepts the leachate into its collection system under the conditions of the permit.

To assist Rumpke in addressing the odor impacts to the neighborhoods while long-term solutions are being identified, MSD has worked with Rumpke on a transport operation that allows leachate to be hauled and injected into MSD's collection system at a point where the odor issues are mitigated. MSD will be issuing compliance conditions for the leachate transport operations in the new discharge permit for Rumpke.

MSD has formed an odor response team in coordination with Rumpke, HCPH, HCDOES, and Ohio EPA to continue to address concerns from property owners and residents in the surrounding community. MSD has also developed an outreach strategy to ensure that MSD customers hear directly from MSD on a consistent and relevant basis about the issue, that communication and outreach efforts are coordinated with Rumpke, Ohio EPA, HCDOES, HCPH, and other key players as necessary, to provide MSD customers with a primary point of contact regarding the issue in order to minimize confusion and frustration, and to develop clear and consistent messages for delivery from MSD to stakeholders.

If you would like additional information or background on the extensive steps MSD has taken prior to this action - both operationally and administratively - please let me know and we will provide that documentation.

C: Tony Parrott, Executive Director, MSDGC *JAP*