



UPDATE: Landfill Gas Incident this morning at Waterloo Container

From Mark Pitifer <mpitifer@waterloocontainer.com>

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To Rich Swinehart <rswinehart@waterloocontainer.com>; Bill Lutz <bill@waterloocontainer.com>

Cc Dick Beauchine <dbeauchine@waterloocontainer.com>

Good morning,

Upon entering the facility this morning at 8am there was a strong and unmistakable landfill odor present throughout portions of the building. Over 20 employees approached me directly to report the odor and associated discomfort. In response, I immediately began investigating potential internal sources by smoke testing the building traps and simultaneously monitoring air quality conditions using our AcruLog monitor in real time.

The AcruLog readings detected elevated levels of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), reaching a peak concentration of 29 ppb — the highest reading we have ever recorded at Waterloo Container. In addition, there were multiple 10-minute average readings throughout the building exceeding 10 ppb, including one reading of 16 ppb. This time it was the worst on Packline 1, the breakroom near HR and the sales office.

I contacted Town Zoning to report the issue and request assistance. Unfortunately, I was told that the representative “didn’t have enough hours to work” and that “nothing would be done anyways.” I found this response extraordinarily negligent and frustrating given the seriousness of the situation and the ongoing documented history of these incidents. There is a memo to file on this and Jackson will make a statement if need be on the zoning response...

I also contacted the landfill hotline, and a representative did drive by the property; however, as has occurred previously, the landfill odor was concentrated inside the building rather than outside at the time of inspection.

To properly document the event, I obtained 24 employee affidavits confirming the presence of landfill odor inside the facility. I have also prepared and distributed formal communications outlining the applicable violations to the Town, County Health Department, DEC, EPA, and the Town Attorney, I also included the wording regardgin the town code violations, New York State code violations, and EPA violations. While a package has not yet been formally submitted to the Town, I have collected photographic evidence of the AcruLog device displaying live elevated readings in various areas throughout the building. Perhaps we just wait and make a presentation at the upcoming board meeting in June.

Beginning around 8:00 AM, after it became clear that no outside agency was going to provide immediate assistance, I opened all facility doors and actively ventilated the office and production areas. I also performed a second smoke test of the traps. All traps tested normal except for one area near the employee clock-in station bathroom, where smoke appeared to move upward. Otherwise, the testing confirmed that the issue was not originating from the building plumbing system.

AS has been documented during prior incidents, this again appeared to be a morning event involving landfill gas becoming trapped inside the building while outdoor conditions showed little to no detectable odor.

Following ventilation, conditions improved substantially. Current Acrulog readings throughout the facility are now below 5 ppb, and I anticipate they will approach zero by noon. Notably, the Packline 1 area is currently reading 0 ppb following ventilation.

It is also important to document that both Charlie and Michell reported difficulty breathing, chest pain, and throat irritation during the 8:00–9:00 AM timeframe. I checked back with Charlie around 10 minutes ago, and he indicated he was feeling significantly better, coincidentally after ventilation measures were implemented and my readings were zero over there. All research shows that different people react differently to H2S.

At this point, the situation appears stabilized, all appropriate documentation and notifications have been completed, and conditions within the building have improved substantially. I wanted to ensure you were both fully informed regarding the incident, the actions taken, and the current status of the facility.

Please let me know if you need any additional documentation, readings, photographs, or employee statements.



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