



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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January 20, 2023

Yakima Health District
ATTN: Shawn Magee
Environmental Health Director
1210 Ahtanum Ridge Drive
Union Gap, WA 98903

DTG Yakima Limited Purpose Landfill – Landfill Cracks and Emissions

Dear Shawn,

Attached is a technical memorandum prepared by our staff after making a site visit to the facility. We have long expressed concerns with this area of the landfill on the west-to-northwest side of the existing landfill cell. We have long suspected that there was a probability that an underground landfill could exist. The facility has placed dirt on cracks in the past and dirt cover has reduced odor complaints. This has been a best management practice. Recently, however, we have received an increase in odor complaints that have been forwarded to the health district. This enclosed field evidence attached to this letter identifies that problems remain at the facility and need to be addressed.

We recommend that the Yakima Health District (YHD) as the solid waste permitting authority require DTG to perform emissions sampling of the cracks, atmosphere in the vicinity, property boundary, and offsite at neighbors. Ecology recommends that YHD require odor/emissions sampling be started within 14-days of receipt of your notice to the facility. This is recommended to assess if emissions are of concern at each location. Odors/emissions can be difficult to assess as they sometimes can come and go at a landfill due to many factors. Because of this difficulty a proposal by the facility should contain periodic and/or continuous monitoring. It is important to ensure neighbors are not being exposed to anything potentially harmful.

Currently, Ecology is in negotiations with DTG to perform work in this same area under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) to investigate, identify workplans, and implement remedies.

However, MTCA clean-up negotiations will take time and given a large volume of odor complaints have resumed recently with neighbors; site work to investigate these odors/emissions under the solid waste permit cannot wait. The work that YHD starts with the facility, in regard to odor/emissions sampling will dovetail into compliance work done under MTCA. At this time, work needs to start occurring quicker than MTCA negotiations alone can provide and we believe that both the YHD and facility should take action sooner. If this requires a review by Ecology to approve actions to be implemented, to satisfy MTCA compliance in conjunction with YHD-DTG and Ecology, we are happy to discuss and be of assistance.

Given the cracking and settlement issues all staff and consultants of the facility or regulatory agencies should take precautions to ensure employees are safe when working around this area.

Ecology appreciates the opportunity to work through the issues outlined above with YHD. For any concerns or questions feel free to contact me at (509) 731-5163 or via email at james.rivard@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

James Rivard (Signed Digitally)

James Rivard
Regional Manager
Solid Waste Management Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
Central Regional Office

Attachments:

LeMond – DTG Site Visit Report January 19, 2023

CC: Steven Newchurch, YHD
Luke LeMond, Ecology
Cole Provence, Ecology
Laurie Davies, Ecology
Sage Park, Ecology
Hasan Tahat, YRCAA
Marc Thornberry, YRCAA
Ecology Records