

# A RUMPKE REPORT

## Special Edition

### An update on elevated temperatures in gas recovery wells and odor control at Rumpke Sanitary Landfill

#### 1. Why must gas be recovered from the landfill?

One of Rumpke's chief priorities is maintaining a high quality of life in Colerain Township and surrounding areas. A critical component in reaching this objective is minimizing off-site emissions and odors by continued expansion and optimal operation of a landfill gas collection system. Additionally, state and federal regulations and air permits require continued expansion, monitoring and maintenance of a gas collection system within rigid operating standards. An integral part of that process is continuously extracting methane from the landfill.

Rumpke has opted to employ a system that is a renewable energy source for the region. Often, other sites flare all of the landfill gas, but at Rumpke on-site gas plants are used to purify as much landfill gas as possible for use as a local renewable energy source.

#### 2. How long has Rumpke been recovering landfill gas?

Rumpke has been actively collecting landfill gas since 1986, with three recovery plants on site. The gas recovery operation at Rumpke Sanitary Landfill is the world's largest landfill gas to direct energy pipeline system. It's a system capable of recovering enough renewable energy (natural gas) for 25,000 local homes and businesses.

The operation of the gas recovery system is managed by Montauk Energy Capital. Montauk is a firm with more than 15 years of experience in landfill gas recovery and a total of eight projects in six states.

#### 3. When were the elevated temperatures first discovered?

On August 31, 2009, Rumpke reported elevated temperatures at certain landfill (methane) gas recovery wells.

#### 4. Where were the elevated temperatures discovered?

The wells displaying elevated temperatures are located in the northern area of the landfill.

#### 5. Do the elevated temperatures pose a health risk?

Rumpke's continual focus is ensuring environmental compliance and the health and safety of surrounding communities. Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services monitors the air at and around the site and monitoring results indicate the current situation poses no health risk to the community.

#### 6. Will this situation cause more odors at the landfill?

Unfortunately, this reaction may result in odors. Rumpke is committed to minimizing odors as much as possible. More clay cover and trenches have been added to the area to reduce odors

from escaping and appropriate cold weather odor control techniques are being investigated.

#### 7. What action steps has Rumpke taken to bring temperatures down?

Immediately, Rumpke contacted the Ohio EPA, the Hamilton County General Health District and Hamilton County Environmental Services to provide details about the situation.

Rumpke, its outside consultants and Montauk Energy began implementing a plan to stabilize well temperatures and carbon monoxide levels.

To date, more clay cover has been added to the region to minimize oxygen access to the area and to reduce emissions. Most recently, trenches have been constructed to assist in reducing odors from reaching the surface. Additional cold weather odor control methods are being researched.

#### 8. How long will the elevated temperatures continue?

This portion of the landfill is undergoing a reaction process; one that may take an extended time to complete. Throughout the process rest assured monitoring is occurring by Montauk Energy Capital, Rumpke, Ohio EPA and Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services.

#### 9. How is this issue being monitored?

Rumpke takes this issue very seriously. Protecting the quality of life and human health are chief concerns. Some of the most advanced technology is being used to monitor the wells. Experts from Montauk Energy, Rumpke, Ohio EPA and Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services are working together to review research results and implement action steps.

#### 10. Where can I get more information?

Please feel free to contact us at (513) 741-2637 or visit [www.rumpke.com](http://www.rumpke.com). Tours are always available just give us a call.

#### 11. Who should I contact if I have an odor concern?

We live and work in this neighborhood too and we recognize that despite our best efforts, odors continue to be present in our community. Please know that we are exercising every possible method to minimize this issue. If you have a concern about odors we want to know about it. If you would like to report an odor, call Hamilton County Public Health at (513) 946-7879, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., or Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services at (513) 946-7777 after 4 p.m. and on the weekends.

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513-851-0122  
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