



Point Richmond Community Odor Information: Update 12/13/2010

On October 27th, 2010, following the confirmation of leaks within the cover of the anaerobic digester, the City sent an informational letter to the residents of Point Richmond and the areas surrounding the City's wastewater treatment facility. This informational letter described the steps the City is taking to mitigate this situation, including hauling of sludge off-site for processing and rehabilitation of both digesters to provide operational redundancy.

The letter of October 27th also discussed odor reporting procedures and detailed a level of response and investigation by both Veolia and the City which would satisfy the public and provide information necessary to identify and correct problems within the sewer system or at the plant.

The City is committed to providing the highest level of odor response and investigation possible. Therefore, beginning Monday, December 13, 2010, the City's Fire Department hazardous materials (Haz-Mat) teams will take responsibility for odor complaint response and investigation. The Haz-Mat teams have had considerable training related to response and investigations of this type, and work closely with other regulatory agencies, including the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). The City is providing two additional non-emergency phone numbers that residents can call to report odors. In the event that a resident believes an emergency exists, they are encouraged to call 911. The existing Veolia hotline will remain operational, and odor response efforts will be coordinated with the City's Fire Department dispatch.

Work to rehabilitate the anaerobic digesters at the wastewater treatment plant is continuing, including the installation of new covers. Completion of this work is expected by mid February 2011. The City is requiring Veolia to continue hauling biosolids off-site until the digester process can be operated in compliance with all permit requirements and without impact to the community, as determined by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the City's third-party experts. The City is also evaluating a number of different technologies to monitor levels of hydrogen sulfide on a continual basis at areas within Point Richmond.

Staff will continue providing updates regarding the on-going efforts to repair or replace the anaerobic digester covers and mitigate other potential odor causing processes. The City will notify the public through future correspondence, upcoming City and Neighborhood Council meetings, as well as on a dedicated page on the City's website (www.ci.richmond.ca.us).

Attached, please find the updated procedures for reporting sewer gas related odors.

In our continuing efforts to keep the public informed, the City sends out daily e-mail updates on the status of odors and digester repairs. If you would like to receive this update or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Chad Davisson, the City's Wastewater Manager, at (510) 620-5486 or by e-mail at chad_davisson@ci.richmond.ca.us.

****ODOR COMPLAINT AND RESPONSE PROCEDURES****
Revised December 13, 2010

The City's Fire Department Haz-Mat Teams will now be available to provide odor complaint response and investigation services. The City's Environmental Consultant, BioMax, will be providing on-call services to aid the Fire Department with investigation and follow-up.

The City has established two (2) non-emergency telephone numbers that can be used to dispatch the Fire Department Haz-Mat crews. These numbers are: (510) 233-5223 and (510) 620-6933.

The City has requested that Veolia Water maintain the existing Odor Hotline Number- (510) 412-2001. In the event that residents report odors to this number, the City's Fire Department Dispatch will be notified as well.

The City's Fire Department has excellent response procedures in place, and complainants can expect the Haz-Mat Team to respond within a matter of minutes to investigate. In the event that the preliminary findings determine a significant release (that meet or exceed either the Contra Costa County or BAAQMD parameters) BioMax will be dispatched to provide additional investigation.

If residents believe an emergency situation exists, they should call 911.

It is very important that the community follow the established "Odor Complaint" procedures, as deviation may prolong response and investigation.

The City has also included, on the website home page, a direct link to these established numbers, and has included this change as a newsflash on the City's website home page. The City's website address is www.ci.richmond.ca.us. The City will also continue posting, on the website, hydrogen sulfide monitoring reports and data as it's collected.

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Odor Hotline Number
800-334-ODOR (6367)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Chad Davisson, the City's Wastewater Manager, at (510) 620-5486 or e-mail at chad_davisson@ci.richmond.ca.us.