

Surface Fire at the Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill, St. Louis County: On Nov. 2, just after 5 p.m., the department was notified of a surface fire at the Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill. The Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill is located adjacent to the West Lake Landfill, within the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site located in Bridgeton, St. Louis County. Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill staff noticed the fire in the southwest corner of the South Quarry a few minutes before 5 p.m. and notified 911 and key regulatory agencies (including the department). Pattonville Fire Protection District (FPD) firefighters worked with facility staff for just over an hour to extinguish the fire. The fire was contained to a condensate trap and header line that make up part of the landfill's gas collection and control system. Condensate traps are used to remove condensation that forms inside the landfill gas collection piping.

Pattonville FPD firefighters conducted real-time air monitoring while fighting the fire. No readings of concern to public health were noted. Additionally, department staff conducted real-time air monitoring after the fire was extinguished and while repairs to the gas collection and control system were being made. Air monitoring was conducted at 10 different locations, including at the incident site. All department air monitoring readings were non-detect and below levels of a public health concern. Landfill staff and contractors successfully made initial repairs by midnight on Friday to allow resumed operation of the gas collection and control system. Additional work was conducted on Nov. 3 to reconnect gas wells that had been isolated from the condensate trap the previous day.

Before and after the event on Nov. 2, all monitors at the boundaries of the facility used to confirm compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for sulfur dioxide (SO2) were operational. Landfill staff also performed an additional monitoring loop after the fire, in addition to conducting the daily monitoring required by the consent judgment.

On Nov. 5, department staff conducted a site visit at the Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill and met with staff from the Pattonville FPD, St. Louis Department of Public Health, and the Missouri Attorney General's Office to review the chronology of events and actions and to observe the repairs. Discussions revealed that condensate trap (CT)-25 and pieces of the attached landfill gas header line had been damaged by fire. The cause of the fire has yet to be determined. All fire damage appeared to be limited to aboveground infrastructure. During the Nov. 5 site visit, department staff again conducted real time air monitoring. Air monitoring readings were non-detect and below levels of a public health concern at all locations.

Both Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill staff and the Pattonville FPD are completing after-action reports. The department has asked for copies of these reports upon completion. The initial repairs appear to be satisfactory and the gas collection and control system appears to be working properly. Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill staff will continue daily inspections of equipment to ensure proper operation as required by the Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring Plan.

The department will continue to coordinate with Bridgeton Landfill staff regarding best-management practices as a result of the fire, including the replacement of the condensate trap. Once construction activities to replace the condensate trap are scheduled, the department will conduct air monitoring in concert with those activities.