DHSS Review of Air Sample Data from the Bridgeton Landfill Area, September 12, 2017

The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has reviewed air sample data collected for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) near Bridgeton Landfill on September 12, 2017. Samples were collected at one location upwind of the landfill and one location downwind of the landfill for laboratory determination of concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). DHSS has reviewed this data for evaluation of potential public health concerns of short-term health effects.

VOCs

Downwind of the landfill, 9 VOCs were detected in ambient air in concentrations that ranged from 0.21 parts per billion (ppb) to 6 ppb and did not exceed health-based screening levels for acute exposure. A benzene concentration of 1.2 ppb in the upwind sample was slightly above the most conservative available guideline for acute exposure. In ambient air downwind of the landfill, benzene was not detected. Therefore, the detection of benzene upwind of the landfill suggests there are sources of benzene in the area other than the landfill.