

400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
April 24, 2009

Southwest Regional Office

(412) 442-4000
Fax (412) 442-4194

Dr. John DiSanti, Superintendent
West Allegheny School District
P. O. Box 55
Imperial, PA 15126

Re: Mobile air sampling lab analysis
Wilson Elementary School
Findlay Township
Allegheny County

Dear Dr. DiSanti:

The Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) mobile analytical lab came from Harrisburg and spent three days, March 16-18, 2009, conducting air samples outside Wilson Elementary School. The enclosed report provides details of what was collected at the school, Imperial Landfill and in gas sampling bags at 11 locations.

The purpose of the testing was to determine the source of the gases and odor-causing compounds that had prompted complaints from staff at the school as well as citizens who live and/or work near the landfill. Because compounds found at the landfill were also detected at the school, DEP is able to confirm that the odors are originating from Imperial Landfill. The compounds are associated with the decomposition of waste.

It is important to note that instantaneous measurements are not indicative of long-term, continuous exposure. The samples were taken for only three days, which is insufficient for complete air quality monitoring. Consequently, DEP is unable to conclusively determine health risks. Data resulting from Allegheny County Health



Department's (ACHD) ongoing monitoring will be evaluated to assess potential health and/or safety risks.

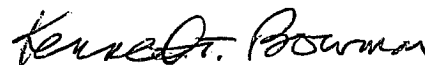
You will notice the highest reading during our sampling was for methane, a gas commonly associated with landfills, at 41,768 parts per billion (41.8 parts per million) the morning of March 17. That morning was very foggy, so the resulting atmospheric conditions would have contained any gases released into the air and would cause these higher readings. Please be assured that methane at this level does not present a health and/or safety risk.

Please note that because of the weather conditions, two separate charts were prepared for March 17—one that reflects the samples collected before the fog lifted and one to reflect sampling done the duration of the day.

I want to assure you that DEP is committed to solving the problem at the source. For that reason, our office is requiring Imperial Landfill's parent company, Republic Services Inc., to take the necessary measures to control the gases emitted from the landfill. In addition, we are coordinating with ACHD to produce a Consent Order and Agreement between our agencies and Republic that will specify corrective actions and set penalties for past and future violations.

If, after reviewing the report, you have any questions or if you should have concerns or questions at any time, please don't hesitate to contact the following members of my staff: Katy Gresh, Community Relations Coordinator, (412) 442-4203; or Mike Forbeck, Waste Management Program Manager, (412) 442-4120.

Sincerely,



Kenneth T. Bowman, P.E.
Director, Southwest Regional Office

cc: Mr. Gary Klingman, Manager, Findlay Township
Mr. Mike Heher, Division Manager, Republic Services Inc.
The Hon. Robert P. Casey Jr., Senator, U.S. Senate
The Hon. John R. Pippy, Senator, Pennsylvania Senate
The Hon. T. Mark Mustio, Representative, Pennsylvania House of Representatives

(enclosure)