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DEC cites Ontario County Landfill for violations related to odors

By DAVID L. SHAW dshaw@fltimes.com
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The high winds that belted the area in the last day of winter captured loose trash at the Ontario County Landfill. The trash was scattered across the Seneca.

Spencer Tulis / Finger Lakes Times

SENECA — Casella Waste Systems has been cited by the state Department of Environmental Conservation to operate the Ontario County Landfill.

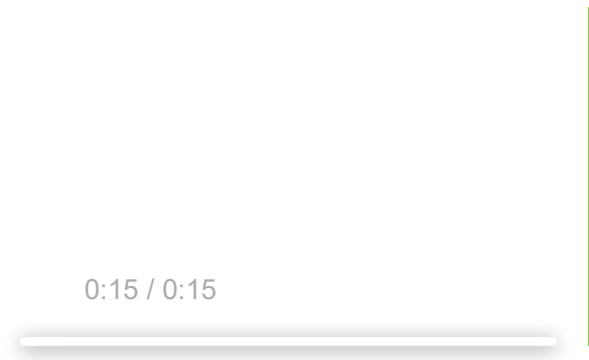
The state Department of Environmental Conservation cited Casella and county officials that the two-fold violation is:

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1964
Andy Serkis, the English actor

20 APR

- Only eight of the 16 horizontal collectors of methane at specified elevations, as scheduled and agreed upon by the DEC, have been installed. The DEC said Casella officials acknowledged that eight gas wells have not been installed. And, some of those that had been installed were not at the specified elevations. The combination is a violation of general permit condition No. 7, the maintenance manual, and the odor-management plan.



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- In 2018, the landfill accepted 130,295 tons of biosolids, or sewage treatment sludge, a 93 percent increase from the 67,579-ton average for the years 2012-17.

The DEC said an increase in biosolids can result in an increase in the generation of methane, the gas created by landfill waste. Combined with an undersized gas-collection system, this type of increase could result in positive pressure within the landfill and an increase in fugitive or off-site landfill gas emissions and odors.

The rise in pressure also could cause an increase in leachate seeps and breakouts, the DEC noted.

The violation, dated Feb. 12, was noted in a letter to the landfill’s general manager, Mark Clinker. County officials distributed the letter at Monday’s meeting of the Ontario County Environmental Quality Committee.

“Both of these situations occurred around the same time as the increase in landfill odors since that time,” said DEC Commissioner...

The landfill has received several violation notices since the expansion within the existing footprint in 2017. The expansion is still pending.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

DEC environmental engineer Gary Maslanka, who wrote the letter, said an evaluation of the methane-collection infrastructure must be submitted to the DEC by Friday. The report must include “as-built” engineering drawings that depict all active gas-collection infrastructure associated with the Phase III landfill, showing vertical and horizontal collection wells, transmission lines, leachate knockouts, and flares. The report must indicate how these systems are performing, and it must be prepared, stamped and signed by a licensed professional engineer.

Starting immediately, monitoring of all gas-collection systems must be increased from one per month to a minimum of once every two weeks. At a minimum, the collection systems must be monitored for pressure, temperature and oxygen content. This increased monitoring must continue until the DEC approves a return to monthly monitoring.

Also, information on the amount of biosolids and odorous loads accepted by the landfill must be included in all future monthly reports. These reports must list the weight and number of loads and which ones needed special handling.

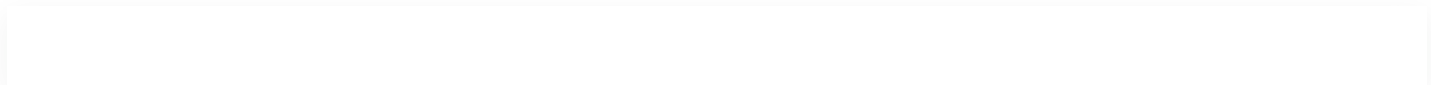
Maslanka said the county and Casella must take “immediate action” to ensure that all continuing violations cease immediately. DEC warns

The violations are subject to a civil penalty \$1,500 for each day the violation continues.

In response, Casella officials said the well second phase of well drilling will begin in 1



Casella officials also said the company will submit the required evaluation of the gas-collection infrastructure and the requested information on biosolids by Friday.



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