



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

PUBLIC INTEREST CENTER

P.O. Box 1049, 50 W. Town St., Suite 700

Columbus, OH 43216-1049

Tele: (614) 644-2160 Fax: (614) 644-2737

News Release

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MEDIA CONTACT: Ohio EPA, Heather Lauer, (614) 644-2160
Hamilton County Public Health, Megan Hummel, (513) 946-7808

CITIZEN CONTACT: Erika Wiggins, (614) 644-2160

Ohio EPA, Hamilton County Respond to Suspected Fire at Rumpke

State and county officials are working with Rumpke, Inc., to address a suspected subsurface fire at the company's Colerain Township landfill. Rumpke notified Ohio EPA on August 28, 2009, that subsurface wells in the north area of the landfill had elevated temperatures. No smoke or steam is visible and the surface of the landfill cell appears to be unchanged.

Yesterday, Rumpke, located at 10795 Hughes Road, and GSF Energy, activated the facility's fire contingency plan. This involved notifying the Colerain Township fire department and township trustees that gas extraction wells on the facility's north side were testing hot – one as high as 194 degrees Fahrenheit. The company's permit requires it to report if methane extraction wells exceed 149 degrees.

In addition, carbon monoxide levels in the wells are testing high, further leading regulators to believe a subsurface fire is present.

Currently, there is no evidence to suggest this situation is causing any health concern, however the subsurface fire is being closely monitored and aggressively managed.

Hamilton County Public Health, Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services and Ohio EPA are working with the company to ensure the situation is contained as soon as possible and take air samples to best address the situation.

Ohio EPA and Hamilton County will release more information as it becomes available.

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