



UPDATE ON HIGH ACRES LANDFILL

From the Desk of Town Supervisor Ciaran Hanna

NOVEMBER 21, 2022



As you are aware, High Acres Landfill is privately owned by Waste Management (WM), and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has primary regulatory control over its operation. However, the Town of Perinton remains active in monitoring how WM operates and maintains the facility.

On a daily basis, the Town, NYSDEC, WM, and other local elected officials, receive a summary of odor complaints from the Odor Notification Hotline. After noticing an uptick in verified odor complaints during operational and non-operational hours, I contacted WM to investigate the cause, and our Public Works team visited the site to assess landfill conditions and determine whether any operational activities were contributing to or causing these odors.

After investigating, we believe that the majority of the recently verified odors can be attributed to the installation of an additional 20 acres of NYSDEC-approved temporary geomembrane cover over portions of Cells 11 and 12. Temporary odors can occur during trenching and other construction activities related to the installation of this cover. To better control odor during construction, WM is limiting the amount of open trenching, employing odor-neutralizing granules, and covering the working areas at the end of each day. The cover construction activities started in late October and are expected to be complete by the end of November. Once the cover is installed, it is expected to reduce off-site odors by providing an enhanced intermediate cover barrier, which allows for improved gas collection.

The Town and our Conservation Board continue to challenge WM to pursue emerging/new technologies, such as temporary geomembrane cover, which is proven to provide enhanced odor control, in our ongoing efforts to reduce fugitive odors from the landfill. We also remain vigilant in stressing the importance of sufficient NYSDEC-regulatory compliant daily soil cover over the working areas of the landfill.

In addition, WM recently announced a commitment to reduce its overall landfill greenhouse gas emissions, and the use of the temporary geomembrane cover is expected to play a critical role in that reduction goal.

The Town actively monitors odor complaints and follows the trends of verified complaints. We will continue to do our part and ask that residents continue to use the Odor Notification Hotline, which verifies odor complaints and creates useful data, which we analyze weekly as part of our overall landfill monitoring efforts.

Please also check Waste Management's Operational Updates webpage linked below to stay up-to-date.

As always, I would be happy to meet with you or speak about any issues with the Landfill. I can be reached at (585) 223-0770 or channa@perinton.org.

ODOR NOTIFICATION HOTLINE



A local odor notification hotline is accessible 24/7 at (585) 453-2416. Residents can call any time.

Hotline Complaints are investigated and reported in real-time to NYSDEC, Waste Management, and the Town.

HIGH ACRES LANDFILL OPERATIONAL UPDATES WEBPAGE





UPDATE ON HIGH ACRES LANDFILL

From the Desk of Town Supervisor Ciaran Hanna

NOVEMBER 21, 2022

HDPE GEOMEMBRANE LANDFILL COVER

Waste Management is installing an additional 20 acres of NYSDEC-approved temporary geomembrane cover in Cells 11 and 12 for improved odor control through enhanced and gas collection. Learn more about the cover below:



WHAT IS IT?

Temporary geomembrane cover is a high-density polyethylene (HDPE) geomembrane that has proven performance as a primary containment barrier in landfill applications. It also has a textured surface to improve slope stability. At 40 mils thickness, the flexible yet hardy construction-grade material is impermeable. In comparison, your typical solar pool cover is between 12 mils and 16 mils thick, making this geomembrane cover an average of 185% thicker.



HOW IS IT INSTALLED?

Installation of the temporary geomembrane cover involves digging 3-4 ft deep trenches in the existing earthen landfill surface so it can be anchored and secured to the ground. Additional gas collection and conveyance systems are installed below of the surface of the cover, allowing for an enhanced and more efficient gas collection, which will limit future fugitive odors. The construction process will likely cause temporary fleeting odor since the existing landfill surface is being disturbed.



WHY IS IT BEING USED?

Temporary geomembrane covers are engineered to withstand deterioration with proven durability for long-term use in both buried and UV-exposed conditions. A product called Wind Defender is also being installed to protect the cover from high winds and prolonged UV exposure. The cover will enhance gas collection by trapping landfill gas and forcing it through the gas collection system. This type of cover is part of ongoing efforts to not only keep the landfill compliant with current regulatory requirements but further improve its overall performance through the enhanced reduction of fugitive gas emissions.