



## City of Doral Environmental Advisory Task Force MEMO

---

Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2019  
To: Mayor Bermudez and City Councilmembers  
Cc: Office of the City Manager and Office of the City Clerk  
From: Environmental Advisory Task Force  
Subject: Task Force Findings & Recommendations - Final Report

---

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

The Environmental Advisory Task Force was established on December 13, 2017. As per Resolution No. 17-227, the Task Force was tasked with evaluating odor and other environmental concerns in the City so as to promote a cleaner, healthier and more pleasing living environment in and for the community

The Task Force consisted of five (5) members:

- Edward Russo, Chair
- Leigh Marshallsay, Vice Chair
- Joe Jimenez, Task Force Member
- Michael Piazza, Task Force Member
- Phillip Serrate, Task Force Member

The Task Force held public meetings including a site visit to both the Medley Waste Management Landfill and the Covanta Energy Plant. Below are some of the items discussed during the meetings.

### 1. June 14, 2018 Meeting

The Task Force reviewed the following reports:

- Environmental Compliance Audit Report (Langan)
- Environmental Compliance Audit Presentation (Langan)

- Odor Monitoring Plan (May 2013)
- Odor Monitoring Evaluation Report (February 2014)
- Odor Monitoring Evaluation & Report (October 2014)
- Odor Monitoring Plan (CBI)
- Ordinance No. 2015-19

## **2. July 26, 2018 Meeting (Landfill Site Visits)**

### **a. Medley Waste Management Landfill Site Visit**

Task Force Members and representatives of Waste Management discussed the following topics:

- Permits obtained by the Landfill
- Mediation of Odor Complaints
- Functions of the Equipment Used to Mediate the Odor

### **b. Covanta Energy Plant Site Visit**

Task Force Members and representatives of Covanta discussed the following topics:

- Mediation of Odor Complaints
- Functions of the Equipment Used to Mediate the Odor

## **2. September 6, 2018**

- Discussion with DERM (Air Quality and Solid Waste Management) regarding the permitting for the Covanta and Medley facilities as well as frequency of air inspections.
- Discussion with DERM on the odor complaints and their increase in frequency with the rainy season.
- DERM stated that the landfills are required to have groundwater monitoring (as per regulations).

### **Task Force Requests:**

***Water quality data and analysis from DERM on groundwater monitoring within the limits of the City of Doral.***

## **3. October 18, 2018**

The Task Force reviewed the following reports:

- SCS Water Quality Monitoring Report dated July 18, 2017
- SCS Water Quality Monitoring Report dated May 2, 2018
- DERM Water Quality Monitoring Report. This report covers water quality data collected within one mile from the landfills for the past 5 1/2 years.
- Graph from the City of Doral indicating frequency of complaints over time.
- Reports from Dr. Virginia Walsh (WASA)

## **Public Comments**

- A resident addressed the members and provided them with background on the City's issues with the odors.
- A member of the audience addressed the Task Force and spoke about the timing that they were appointed, seeing as the issues have been going on for many years.
- A resident addressed the members and suggested that a health study be conducted to determine if there is any correlation between the odors/pollution and conditions of some residents. Another resident echoed the comments and commented on the water conditions/color.

## **Task Force Requests:**

***Information on how/who determines the parameters for monitoring wells.***

***Obtain the maps from WASA of the locations where the water wells are located.***

### **4. Conclusions and Recommendations**

1. The DERM air quality experts responded to each noxious odor complaint but could not find or determine any airborne cause for the complaints.
2. The subsurface impermeable layer designed to ensure against any off-site migration of liquid contaminants from the Medley Landfill was installed to protect waste deposited from 1995 to present. According to German Hernandez, Division Director Department of Solid Waste Management – Technical Services and Environmental Affairs Division, County of Miami-Dade, the NW 58th Street Landfill began accepting waste in 1952.
3. The SCS test results from 2017 and 2018 tested for substances not necessarily associated with noxious landfill leachate odors.
5. The 5 ½ years of test results from DERM indicate that leachate containing several substances associated with noxious leachate odors were present in groundwater originating from the landfills.
6. The report from the representative from WASA indicated that the frequency and intensity of the use of the potable water production wells to the West and South East of the landfills were manipulated to avoid contaminants produced by the landfills in question.
7. Anecdotal reports from complaining residents around the landfill suggest noxious odors are severe immediately subsequent to a rain event. This condition could be caused by the impact of substances migrating from the landfills.

**Therefore, based on the information collected, the Task Force recommends the following reports be completed, received, analyzed, and submitted to the City Commission for further consideration:**

1. A series of soil tests collected from the properties of residents which submitted multiple complaints.
2. A series of air quality tests subsequent to a rain event from the area in proximity of repeat complainants to determine the presence of Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) and other noxious substances.
3. A comprehensive health survey collected from residents and doctors treating residents from the area.

Respectfully submitted,

Environmental Advisory Task Force