



January 12, 2018

Investigation Update

On the evening of January 2, 2018, residents of the Town of Unity experienced a strong odour that in some cases caused personal discomfort. The issue was initially reported to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (ENV). Further investigation indicated that the odour most likely originated from the Tervita Unity Waste Processing Facility (WPF) about two kilometres southeast of Unity. This facility is licensed by the Ministry of the Economy (ECON) under the provisions of *The Oil and Gas Conservation Act*. ECON, with the assistance of ENV, has initiated an investigation of the cause of the odour. Actions to date are as follows:

- On the morning of January 3, 2018, ECON field staff from the Lloydminster office inspected the facility to determine whether there was any ongoing risk of the odour being released from the facility. Staff used Forward Looking Infrared Radar (FLIR) cameras to identify any potential fugitive emissions or leaks and Jerome Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) monitors to evaluate H₂S emissions levels. The Jerome monitor can detect H₂S at parts per billion levels. No emissions were identified during this inspection.
- On January 3, 2018, senior engineers with ECON began a formal investigation into the cause of the odour. This initial phase of the investigation included work with the facility operator to confirm measures that it has taken to address potential sources of the leak. Since that time, the focus has shifted to collecting information on the events leading up to the odour release, as well as information on the nature of the waste being processed at the facility during the time of the release. This analysis will also include a review of air monitoring data at the Unity AirPointer/Station related to wind direction and air quality during January 2, 2018.
- Based on the initial information collected on the incident, ECON contracted with Intrinsic Corp, a consulting firm, on January 8, 2018, to assist its engineers with the review of data on the content of the waste delivered to Tervita WPF and potential causes of the odour. Intrinsic Corp has expertise in toxicology for the protection of human health and the environment with extensive knowledge of waste processing facilities. It will be advising ECON on the investigation methods, testing protocols and interpretation of findings.
- The samples collected by an official with the Town of Unity were sent by ENV to Ottawa for analysis by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). ECCC has the technical equipment necessary to analyze types of compounds that may have been released from the facility during the incident.
- Senior engineering staff from ECON will be traveling to Unity during the week of January 15, 2018, for a more detailed investigation of the event. This examination will include a review of the engineering of the facility as well as an analysis of the full range of potential release points. This investigation will include interviews with the staff of the facility operator to clearly establish timelines and facts surrounding the events of January 2, 2018.



- In addition to the work focused on the Tervita WPF, ECON has also been examining other potential sources of the odour within Unity as well as the surrounding area. While there is a high probability that the odour originated from the Tervita WPF, ECON needs to be able to clearly rule out other potential sources in order to ensure that its investigation is complete and its follow up actions are appropriate.

Investigation work will continue over the next several weeks with a full report prepared once it is completed.

This report will include actions required to address issues identified in the investigation. Some of these measures will be implemented as they are identified through the course of the investigation.

Communications Branch
Ministry of the Economy
306 787-4765

