



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
Atlanta GA 30333

June 7, 2016

Jill Jennings-McElheney
Micah's Mission
P.O. Box 275
Winterville, GA 30683

Dear Mrs. Jennings-McElheney:

Thank you for your October 13, 2014, e-mail regarding your concerns about odors from the composting and landfill operations at the Athens-Clarke County Landfill near Athens, Georgia. You requested that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) conduct a public health assessment to evaluate the public health risk that these operations might pose.

To address your concern, we worked with the Georgia Department of Public Health (GA DPH) and reviewed the information that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division has concerning the Athens-Clarke County Landfill. GA DPH staff conducted a site visit and reviewed the operational activities and methods used at the landfill. These activities and reviews indicate the Athens-Clarke County Landfill is designed and operated to inhibit the release of toxic chemicals into the environment. We were not able to identify any information or data that would indicate people near the landfill are being exposed to toxic chemicals at levels of health concern (e.g., breathing toxic chemicals). Accordingly, ATSDR will not be conducting any additional public health activities regarding the Athens-Clarke County Landfill.

We are aware that odors may be originating from the Athens-Clarke County Landfill and impacting the quality of life of people near the landfill. ATSDR does not conduct public health assessments on odors but we do provide resources on our web page (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/odors/index.html>) on how communities can work with local government to address odor concerns. We suggest that the people living near the Athens-Clarke County Landfill work with the Athens-Clarke County officials to help identify the specific source of odors at landfill (e.g., maintaining odor logs, contacting county officials immediately when odors occur so investigations can be done in a timely manner). These efforts could help identify interventions to reduce/eliminate the odors that are impacting the community's quality of life.

Thank you for raising your concerns and bringing them to our attention. If you have any questions about how ATSDR evaluated your request and our response, please contact Dr. Sven E. Rodenbeck, Division of Community Health Investigations Petition Coordinator. Dr. Rodenbeck may be reached at (770) 488-3660 or via email at Srodenbeck@cdc.gov.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Division of Community Health Investigations

Director

Leana Arias, PhD

Sincerely,

