

Complaint Information

4500 - EP SW Rgnl Off Pittsburgh

Complaint Id: 341178

County: Washington

Entered By: KURT M SMITH

Source: Phone Call

Date Received: 04/05/2019

Abbreviated Description: EMISSIONS

Long Description: Complainant's daughter has been getting ill at school every day for the past 17 days; she has been especially bad for the past 10 to 12 days. She is okay on the weekends. The complainant feels that the daughter's illness corresponds with the development of a new Range Resources well pad, which is located about 1-1/2 miles from the Fort Cherry High School. The well pad is at the intersection of Fort Cherry Road and Noblestown Road. The complainant has a portable Granger air quality monitor (VOCs only, no speciation) that has alarmed once in the red zone near the well pad and twice in the yellow (cautionary) range outside of the school. The complainant ultimately wants the Department to conduct air monitoring during the different stages of a well pad development.

Site Location: Fort Cherry and Noble Roads

Related Complaint Id:

Municipality: Robinson Township

After Hours (Y/N): N

ER Related (Y/N): N

Date Acknowledged:

Complainant Information

Name: [REDACTED]

Seq #: 1

Company:

Home Phone: [REDACTED]

Confidential (Y/N):

Work Phone:

Ext:

Email:

Mobile Phone:

Email Response (Y/N): N

Address: [REDACTED]

Date/Time Received: 04/09/2019 02:17 PM

Responsible Party Information

Name:

Home Phone:

Company: RANGE RESOURCES APPALACHIA LLC

Work Phone: 724-743-6700

Ext:

Permit #:

Mobile Phone:

County: Washington

Municipality:

Address: 3000 TOWN CENTER BLVD
SUITE 300
CANONSBURG, PA 15317

Response Information

Priority: 3

of Documents: 0

Program: Air Quality

Complaint Type: General

Date Referred:

Date Response Assigned: 04/05/2019

Referred To:

Date Response Due: 05/17/2019

Date Resolved: 06/12/2019

Date First Response: 04/11/2019

Inspector: CARY S MILLER

Supervisor: ELIZABETH A SPEICHER

Comments:

Investigation Information

Date Assigned: 04/05/2019

Date Investigated: 04/11/2019.

Type: Site Visit

Inspector: CARY S MILLER

Violation (Y/N): N

eFACTS Inspection Id:

Investigation Id: 369681

Investigation Description: 4/11/19

I spoke with the Fort Cherry High School principal, who directed me to the School District Superintendent Dr. Jacoby. She noted that the district has had a number of air quality studies conducted over the past 10 years during the fracking boom, sometimes at the request of concerned family members of students, and that none of the studies have shown cause for further action. She directed me to the most recent AQ studies on the district's website, which were conducted by the South West PA Environmental Health Project.

5/3/19

I spoke with complainant by phone. [REDACTED] Note

5/14/19

I met with Jess Drylie, Business Manager at Fort Cherry School District, to discuss air monitoring at the schools in the past several years. There was a study done by Clean Air Council in 2015-2016, and another by SWPA Environmental Health Project in 2017-2018 in response to wellpad operations in the area. These two studies are available on the School District's website at <https://www.fortcherry.org/Domain/428>. Additionally, I reviewed a study conducted by ChemRisk in 2012 during fracking and flaring at the nearby Range Resources/Chiarelli wellpad. This study also found that atmospheric VOCs were similar to baseline levels (slightly above) but still below health-protective limits. All the studies involved monitoring/sampling prior to wellpad operations to establish baseline/default levels. The SWPA EHP study also included 3 indoor air monitors (HS gym, HS cafeteria, Elem. gym). Additionally, Ms. Drylie was unaware of any other students reporting illnesses or symptoms in relation to wellpad activity or air contaminants, and she stated that no medical documentation has been provided to the school district regarding illness from air contaminants.

I walked around the perimeter of the schools with Ms. Drylie and used a MultiRAE meter to search for VOCs. The VOC reading shifted back and forth from 0.0-0.1ppm (the device's lower detection limit for VOCs) during the walking round. This is consistent with background/ambient measurements in Southwest PA.

5/17/19

I visited Aloe Family wellpad and the Yonkers wellpad with a Range representative on 5/17/19. At Aloe Family there were 5 new wells drilled vertically (they had not been drilled horizontally nor frac'd yet). On this morning, the weather was overcast, 65 deg F, with wind out of the South. I walked around the pad with the MultiRAE meter, with VOC readings alternating between 0.0-0.1ppm. Afterwards, we went to the Yonkers pad, which the Range rep said had "wet gas". The MultiRAE VOC readings on Yonkers were mostly 0.0ppm, with a few blips of 0.1ppm.

After the site visits, the Range rep followed up with details about wellpad activities during the timeframe 3/1/19 to 5/1/19. He reported that a drill rig was doing vertical drilling between 3/4/19 and 4/3/19. The only abnormal activity in their records was a spill of ~0.5 gallons of hydraulic fluid onto the gravel pad, which was remediated including the affected gravel. There were no records of abnormal activity, spills, malfunctions, or releases in that date window at the Yonkers pad, which was producing gas during that period.

The hydraulic fluid spill was reported to O&G, but there would have been no air quality issues involved. I also checked ozone levels from the ACHD South Fayette monitoring station (the closest ambient air monitoring station downwind of the complaint site) and there were no abnormal ozone levels during the period described in the complaint.

6/6/19

I called complainant several times today, they did not answer and their voicemail was full.

6/7/19

I called complainant again today, they did not answer and their voicemail was full.

6/12/19

I called complainant today, they did not answer and their voicemail was full. I am closing the complaint.