

DEC: Odor broke rules

Town landfill failed 10 inspections in late December

BY CARL MACGOWAN
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Brookhaven Town repeatedly violated state air-quality rules by failing to contain foul odors from the town landfill for nearly two weeks in December, state environmental officials said.

The landfill, on Horseblock Road in Brookhaven hamlet, failed 10 of 11 inspections from Dec. 13 to Dec. 26, the state Department of Environmental Conservation said in a statement provided to Newsday. The violations could leave the town on the hook for thousands of dollars in fines.

Inspectors from the DEC's divisions of air resources and materials management detected the smell of hydrogen sulfide — often described as “rotten egg smell” — during inspections conducted in neighborhoods near the landfill, the DEC said. Hydrogen sulfide, a gas byproduct of natural decomposition of waste, is mostly harmless but can cause maladies such as watery eyes and sore throats.

The DEC said it ordered the inspections in response to complaints from 75 people who said their neighborhoods had been filled with “persistent, unpleasant odors” late last year.

The notices of violation were



The DEC said complaints about Brookhaven Town landfill odors had decreased since January.

issued to town officials on March 1. Brookhaven and DEC officials met on March 5 to discuss the allegations and the town's plans to address odor problems at the site.

Brookhaven officials said Tuesday that the release of odors was inadvertent and stemmed in part from poor weather that hampered the town's plan to install a cap, or cover, to reduce smells caused by the landfill.

Town officials said they had completed the capping project in January and installed wells that would remove hydrogen sulfide and other gases.

“I think what the state is looking for us to do is continue to do the efforts that we have been,” Brookhaven chief of operations Matt Miner said in an interview. “The solution was to hook the gas system up and complete the capping, and we've done that.”

Brookhaven officials said rainstorms in November and December not only prevented workers from installing the cap but also exacerbated the odors.

“Those rains really killed me,” said Christopher Andrade, who runs the landfill as Brookhaven's commissioner of recycling and sustainable materials manage-

ment. “It seemed like every seven days it was a deluge.”

The DEC said in a statement it had “documented a downward trend in the number and frequency of complaints received” since January.

The violations cited by the DEC carry a potential civil fine of \$18,000 for violating air-quality laws, plus an additional \$15,000 for each day the law is violated. In addition, violation of materials-management laws carries a \$7,500 fine, plus \$1,500 for each day violations occurred. Miner said town officials don't expect to be fined for the violations.

Town seeks new Tobay Beach concessionaire

BY TED PHILLIPS
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The Oyster Bay Town Board plans to replace its concessionaire at Tobay Beach after the past two years defaulted on its agreement last year, town officials said Tuesday.

The town board selected Carlyle Catering to run the beach restaurants and concessions following a presentation by Steven Carl at an April 5, 2017, meeting. Oyster Bay's town attorney said Tuesday that a separate company operating the concession had stopped paying monthly licensing fees in September.

“We put them in default,”

Joseph Nocella said at Tuesday's town board meeting. “Now it's time to sue.”

Nocella said in a text message that the agreement had been terminated.

The concession had at one time been held by Harendra Singh, whose disputed loan guarantees were at the heart of the corruption conviction last week of former Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano.

Oyster Bay Town Supervisor Joseph Saladino executed two concession agreements on May 25, 2017, with Carlyle at Tobay LLC. The board on Tuesday authorized a lawsuit against a successor company, The Standard at Tobay LLC,

to recover lost revenue.

Saladino declined to be interviewed after Tuesday's meeting.

A call to Carl's attorney, Richard Naidich, of Great Neck-based Naidich Wurman LLP, was not returned Tuesday.

Carl was the longtime operator of a state concession at Bethpage State Park called Carlyle on the Green, but the company lost a bid to continue operating there in 2017. In September, another facility operated by Carl, Carlyle at the Palace, a catering facility at the Off Track Betting Corp. facility in Plainview, closed suddenly, prompting the state attorney general's office to announce it would examine the closure.

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CORRECTION

The Sayville man who a sheriff's department official said killed himself was in a cell at the Suffolk County jail in Riverhead. A story Tuesday gave an incorrect location for the jail.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1764 Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey, British prime minister in 1830-1834 (for whom Earl Grey tea is named), was born in Falldon, Northumberland.

1865 Confederate President Jefferson Davis signed a measure allowing black slaves to enlist in the Confederate States Army with the promise they would be set free.

1925 The Tennessee General Assembly Ok'd a bill prohibiting the teaching of evolution.

1928 400 people died when the collapse of the 2-year-old St. Francis Dam inundated the San Francisco Canyon.

1933 Banks reopened after a “holiday” declared by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

1934 John Dillinger and “Baby Face” Nelson robbed the First National Bank in Mason City, Iowa, making off with \$52,344.

1964 Catherine “Kitty” Genovese, 28, was stabbed to death in Queens; the case gained notoriety over supposed reluctance of neighbors to respond to her cries for help.

1996 A gunman burst into an school in Dunblane, Scotland, killing 16 children and a teacher before killing himself.

2014 President Barack Obama directed the government to find more humane ways to handle deportation for immigrants in the U.S. illegally.