

Detterman, Mark, Env. Health

From: simonkwan@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2018 11:34 AM
To: Detterman, Mark, Env. Health
Subject: Re: ACDEH case RO0003070

Hi Mr. Detterman,

Many thanks for your prompt reply, and your suggestion contacting PGE. Much appreciated!

best regards,
Simon Kwan

From: "Mark Detterman, Env. Health" <Mark.Detterman@acgov.org>
To: simonkwan@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2018 11:18:11 AM
Subject: RE: ACDEH case RO0003070

Hi Mr. Kwan,

Thank you for your note and observations. Due to both the age of the petroleum release, and the type of petroleum (very similar to diesel, so much less volatile than gasoline), there were no volatile compounds remaining in soil or soil vapor beneath the fuel release at the site in question. This was substantiated by the laboratory analytical data that was collected immediately adjacent and below the release. Thus what you and others are smelling is not related to the old release.

However, I have also experienced similar transitory acrid odors in my neighborhood and in each case it was a PGE natural gas leak from the old plastic pipes that were sometimes used to deliver the gas at one time by PGE. Several years back, PGE came out and used a "sniffer probe" to locate the releases underground on the city street we live on, and dug up three or four areas to replace the plastic pipe. These were very small excavations and while it took PGE crews a good long while to get out there, the work was pretty quick. I would encourage you to call PGE (or go online) and provide them with these observations – basically it is not just you, but in fact a number of people who have reported it to you. The City Fire Department will not be able to help you at this stage, other than to point you to PGE. I would let PGE know that someone smelled the odor in the park behind your place and reported it to you. There may be a PGE natural gas line out in the park for some reason; basically they should be looking both beneath Hazel Lane, perhaps in the park, but also beneath your property (depending on where you and other detected these odors). These are the type of releases that have lead in some rare cases to home explosions in Sacramento and Carmel. While these are very rare, and home occupants should smell the odor inside the house rather than outside, the odor should not be long ignored. Good luck with the hunt!
Hope this helps.

Mark Detterman
Senior Geologist, PG, CEG
Senior Hazardous Materials Specialist
Alameda County Department of Environmental Health
1131 Harbor Bay Parkway
Alameda, CA 94502
Direct: 510.567.6876
Fax: 510.337.9335
Email: mark.detterman@acgov.org

*PDF Copies of case files can be downloaded at:
<http://www.acgov.org/aceh/lop/ust.htm>*

From: simonkwan@comcast.net [mailto:simonkwan@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2018 10:28 AM
To: Detterman, Mark, Env. Health <Mark.Detterman@acgov.org>
Subject: ACDEH case RO0003070

Hi Mr. Detterman,

My home is at 124 Hazel Lane, Piedmont CA and I received the invitation to comment on potential case closure referenced in the subject line.

Since late last year, there has been a foul odor usually at evening time around my property a number of times. In one occasion, my neighbor called Piedmont Fire to report the foul smell for possible gas leak. I called Piedmont Public Works to check as well, including possible sewage leak. Just last week, a pedestrian in Piedmont Park behind my house smelled something like gas leak and called my attention. To this date, there is no answer to the foul smell, which still resurfaces irregularly at unpredictable time and interval, making trouble shooting difficult.

When I receive the above referenced invitation to comment, I would like to know if there's any connection between the above fuel leak case and the foul odor that still presence currently.

Thank you in advance for your attention.

regards,
Simon Kwan
510-418-4663 (cell)