



Seneca County
Health Department

Health and Senior Services Building
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Scott King
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Phone: 315-539-1920
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June 17, 2022

Bill Lutz, President
Waterloo Container
2311 State Route 414
Waterloo, NY 13165

Re: Sewer Odor Complaint

Dear Mr. Lutz:

Thank you for bringing the issue regarding sewer odors at Waterloo Container Co. (and the immediate vicinity) to our attention with your letter of June 8, 2022. The intent of this letter is to update you as to the status of this investigation.

At my request, a conference call was arranged with representatives of the NYS Department of Health Western Regional office and the NYS Department of Health Bureau of Toxic Substances Assessment (BTSA). Information from your last letter was presented prior to the meeting, as well as our earlier communication.

At this time, based upon the nature of the complaint, the issue of “indoor air quality” under these circumstances is not within the primary jurisdiction of the Department of Health, either at the state or local level. Further, it was noted by BTSA experts during that meeting that there is a wide separation between hydrogen sulfide nuisance odors, which are offensive and perhaps nauseating, and the level of odors that are considered likely to impact health.

We are aware that you have been in communication with representatives of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). They do have the primary jurisdiction to respond to your complaints and to address them with both the Town of Seneca Falls, the owner/operator of the sewer line in question, as well as Seneca Meadows, to which you attribute as the source of the problem. It is our understanding that DEC will be addressing these issues with the Town and Seneca Meadows within the scope of their permit and authority.

This is not to say that the Seneca County Health Department is “done” with this matter. We will continue to engage with the Town as to their plans to address these concerns, and we are available to you to attempt to answer any additional questions or concerns. While our office continues to monitor this situation, we again encourage you to have a professional plumbing service evaluate your facility’s wastewater plumbing so as to be certain that there are no internal issues that might allow sewer gas to enter the facility. It is notable that this

10.01.2021

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Public Health
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recommendation is not only made by this office, but was also made by the BTSA experts during our recent conference call.

It is my understanding from our engagement with the Town that additional monitoring and engineering controls are being put in place to help prevent this issue from recurring, and I am confident that the various parties involved in this sewer gas intrusion issue will continue to seek a long-term resolution. We will continue to monitor developments and progress towards achieving this goal while keeping you updated.

Very truly yours,

Scott King
Director of Public Health

CC: M. Ferrara, Supervisor, (T) Seneca Falls
C. Mitchell Rowe, Seneca County Manager

