

Casella Ontario County Landfill

Horizontal Gas Collection Improvement Plan

In the next few weeks, weather permitting for safety and function, the Ontario County Landfill will begin the installation of several horizontal collection systems that are designed to collect emissions over a larger area and closer to the surface than vertical wells are able. The horizontal collection systems that have been approved go above and beyond what typical horizontal collection systems manage. The systems Casella are installing are designed to last without watering out as most typical systems do over time. This is accomplished by installing what is commonly referred to as a “French Drain” in the trench column below the gas collection pipe. This drain will collect both close to surface liquids as well as condensate generated by the gas collection line. This drain will empty into a common sump where it will be pumped into the landfill leachate collection system for management and ultimate disposal.

The collection systems being installed will be done in segments and covered daily to minimize odor release. However, we need to be clear that in order to solve the underlying issue we are going to be excavating a trench into the waste mass where we are currently venting. Because the excavation is horizontal and of significant length, it is difficult to control odor while the work is being conducted.

The work to be performed is not guess work. We have very specific data showing precise areas of concern. We are bringing in 3rd party contractors to perform the work to improve the completion time. Given the weather, infrastructure to work around and the caution needed given the nature of the work, we cannot provide an exact completion date, but expect not to exceed 3 – 4 weeks of contractor time on site. We will keep the work area limited to what we can manage at a given time.

The Ontario County Landfill recognizes that landfill odors must be controlled. We want to assure the Board and the community that the work to be conducted is designed to remedy drone identified venting and is a very specific and intentional action to remedy the problems identified by the data. We want to be very candid and transparent that the nature of this work could create a short-term increase in landfill odors from what exists today, however it is possible that increased odors will not occur.