



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Erika Storlie
City Manager
City of Evanston
2100 Ridge Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Dear Ms. Storlie:

Thank you for your October 28, 2020 letter requesting assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to investigate a waste transfer station located at 1711 Church Street in Evanston, Illinois. Specifically, you have requested that EPA (1) support validating data collected in the City of Evanston's study; (2) evaluate and compare study findings to federal and state ambient air quality standards and requirements; (3) analyze the human health impact based on the study findings; and (4) provide guidance on any additional steps the city should take in order to evaluate the effect of the station operations beyond air quality concerns to evaluate the effect of the waste transfer station on the surrounding neighborhood. EPA has coordinated with Illinois EPA on this response.

Per your request, EPA and Illinois EPA have reviewed the City of Evanston's air monitoring study. The study lists formaldehyde and nitric oxide as the parameters of greatest interest for any future work. In evaluating the formaldehyde data, more than half of the samples were below the instrument's limit of detection. Because of this, it is difficult to compare the values reported to any relevant health benchmarks. If the City of Evanston embarks on any subsequent monitoring studies, EPA would recommend using Method TO-15 to measure formaldehyde. In evaluating the nitric oxide data, EPA compared it to the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for nitrogen dioxide, which is the most prevalent form of nitrogen oxides in the atmosphere. The entire State of Illinois is meeting this standard. The mean and median nitric oxide concentrations reported in the study were also below the NAAQS for this pollutant.

EPA has examined its available authorities and there are no federal Clean Air Act requirements that apply to this facility. Illinois EPA has a cooperative agreement with the Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability (CCDES) to inspect facilities located in Cook County, including this waste transfer station. CCDES inspected this facility in November 2019 and August 2020 and did not find evidence of noncompliance in either instance. If residents continue to complain of odors, they should record them and report them to EPA here:

<https://echo.epa.gov/report-environmental-violations>.

Going forward, EPA advises that the City of Evanston examine its available local authorities to address any concerns with the waste transfer station. If you have further questions or if EPA can provide any technical assistance, please contact me at (312) 886-6043.

Sincerely,

John Mooney
Director
Air and Radiation Division

cc: Julie Armitage, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency