



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

Mr. Randall C. Eads, Esq.
Office of City Manager
City of Bristol, Virginia
300 Lee Street
Bristol, Virginia 24201
citymanager@bristolva.org

Dear Mr. Eads:

Thank you for your January 3, 2022 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael S. Regan regarding the City of Bristol Virginia's Integrated Solid Waste Management Facilities.

EPA appreciates that local communities continue to have questions and concerns related to odors emitted from the Integrated Solid Waste Management Facility landfill in the city of Bristol, Virginia.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) began investigating complaints of nuisance odors emanating from the Facility in late 2020 and initiated consultation with EPA in early 2021. In May 2021, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) received a petition from a Bristol resident requesting the agency investigate landfill odor issues. EPA also began its own site evaluation activities in May and initiated air monitoring and sampling in June.

Since that time EPA, has worked in close collaboration with DEQ, ATSDR, the City of Bristol, Virginia, the City of Bristol, Tennessee, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and others to ensure that all appropriate resources are being applied toward the concurrent investigation and mitigation activities at the Facility.

Though this multi-agency mitigation effort continues, so do the odors emanating from the Facility, directly impacting the quality of life for surrounding communities and presenting a potential threat to the local economy and tourism.

While the odors generated by the Facility are unpleasant and may even cause a physical reaction, EPA's initial review of available air monitoring and sampling data do not demonstrate a need to initiate a response action by EPA's Superfund program. ATSDR continues to receive and evaluate data to determine whether long-term exposures could result in adverse human health effects and intends to release a report summarizing their health assessment activities.



Statutory authorities to regulate solid waste landfills are direct to state and local governments under Subtitle D ([non-hazardous waste](#)) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and there is no EPA oversight role. Despite its limited authorities, the EPA is committed to continuing to work with state and local partners as an advisor to investigate potential remedies to this environmental issue for the people of Bristol.

For more information and updates about the Bristol Landfill, visit DEQ's new webpage here: <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/get-involved/topics-of-interest/bristol-landfill>. To submit an odor report about the landfill, visit the City of Bristol website here: <https://www.bristolva.org/FormCenter/City-Help-Desk-7/Solid-Waste-Facility-Concerns-68>.

Again, I want to thank you for sharing you input with EPA.

Sincerely,

Diana Esher
Deputy Regional Administrator