



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 7**

11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

MAY 02 2023

The Honorable Cori Bush
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bush:

Thank you for your letter of April 12, 2023, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7, requesting an official investigation into the toxic fumes and odor that have been impacting the southern portion of the city of St. Louis.

As a result of earlier complaints from concerned citizens, EPA Region 7 has recently completed an air sampling project that included several daytime and overnight sampling campaigns. The project area included all but two of the neighborhoods listed in your letter. The two neighborhoods listed in your letter but not included in the monitoring event were McKinley Heights and Benton Park. These neighborhoods did not have facilities that were able to be monitored by the sampling project.

As is typical with these types of studies, this initial sampling was conducted at the screening level, and the purpose was to try to narrow the number of potentially responsible sources. Based on the results, we have identified several sources for investigation. We are working with our partners at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and are planning a community meeting this summer where we can explain the project results to date, discuss our plans moving forward, and gather additional input from the community. I will personally ensure that you and your staff have an invitation to this meeting.

In addition, as was mentioned to Danielle Spradley of your staff at an earlier meeting, community information could be instrumental in further narrowing this list of sources of interest. The type of information that will be useful is listed below and will be shared at the meeting. I understand that we already have some of this data in-house and are reviewing it now. Please feel free to share this additional guidance directly with your constituents.

They can report environmental violations directly using the ECHO system: <https://echo.epa.gov/report-environmental-violations>

Or they can keep a record of the following to assist with the odor investigations:

- Date/Time the odor was first observed
- Time the odor was no longer observed (basically the duration of the odor if known)
- Location of the odor (the street address)
- Intensity of the odor
- Type of the odor (see the "odor wheel" attached)
- Thoughts regarding possible source



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The EPA will accept this information from the community (the more observations, the better), and evaluate it against weather conditions and possible source locations to look for trends and patterns which could further inform our investigation.

Again, thank you for your letter of concern. Your letter serves to reinforce the concerns of the community and underscore our resolve to work in partnership with the MDNR, and the communities of urban St. Louis to identify the sources of these odors and address them as expeditiously as possible.

If we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 913-551-7006, or your staff may call LaTonya Sanders, Congressional Liaison, at 913-551-7555.

Sincerely,



Meghan A. McCollister

Enclosure: Odor Wheel for Isolating Odor Characteristics

Odor Wheel for Isolating Odor Characteristics

