

News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Yuma County Landfill, L.L.C. to Pay \$70,000 Penalty to Resolve Air Quality Violations at its Yuma County Facility

PHOENIX (Sept. 14, 2011) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and Arizona Attorney General's Office announced today that South Yuma County Landfill, LLC (SYCL) has agreed to pay a \$70,000 penalty for failure to obtain an air quality permit at its municipal solid waste landfill in Yuma County from 2000 until 2009.

SYCL was cited after a 2009 ADEQ inspection determined that it underestimated the amount of methane and other gases released when it calculated its design capacity and amount of waste it would be receiving at the landfill, located 25 miles southwest of Yuma on the Mexican border.

The design capacity calculation determines if a facility is subject to federal air pollution requirements for municipal solid waste facilities. Facilities over a certain size must obtain a major source air permit, which contains provisions for monitoring the level of gas generation associated with decomposing waste.

Municipal solid waste facilities generate methane and non-methane organic compounds as waste decomposes. The methane and non-methane gases can pose a surface or subsurface fire risk, if enough gas is generated by the waste. Municipal solid waste facilities that are subject to the federal regulations are required to monitor the level of gas being generated on-site to prevent fires from occurring.

On Jan. 12, 2010, SYCL was issued an air quality permit for the landfill and returned to compliance.

“Landfill companies need to do the proper pre-planning to insure that they have environmental compliance,” ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said. “But the landfill came into compliance promptly after the violation was identified.”

“Arizona companies must comply with the requirements that protect our air quality,” said Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne. “This settlement is a reasonable resolution for a company that operated improperly.”

The consent judgment is subject to court approval.

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