



News Release

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Mercury Excavation Project Complete

CINCINNATI, Ohio --The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) in collaboration with Rumpke Sanitary Landfill and the Ohio EPA has completed excavation of 110, 30-yard containers of trash and recovered 210 cubic yards of trash containing mercury.

A team of seven contracted by MSD excavated a 50 by 25 foot area at a depth of approximately 25 feet. Excavated trash was placed in 30 yard containers and was scanned for mercury vapors using a Lumex mercury analyzer. If mercury meeting or exceeding the threshold was detected in a load, the trash was removed and disposed of at a Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B disposal facility approved by the Ohio EPA.

In October 2013, MSD employed a contractor to conduct an investigative study of the area at Rumpke Sanitary Landfill where potentially nine mercury containing flow meters from MSD were unintentionally disposed. Based on data from the investigation, an Ohio EPA- approved excavation plan was developed to remove and properly dispose of the mercury containing material with minimal disruption to the landfill and public.

“The investigative study allowed us to identify specific areas within the Rumpke Landfill that contained elevated levels of mercury and conduct a very thorough excavation,” said Tony Parrott, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati. “We were able to work quickly and efficiently to remove the hazardous material.”

“We are pleased this project is complete and that the material has been safely removed from the site. Most importantly, we are gratified that the issue never put air quality or the surrounding environment at risk,” said Jay Roberts, director of environmental affairs and engineering at Rumpke. “We remain vigilant as customers bring materials to our site and are working on enhanced customer communications to ensure waste generators continue to be well informed about the materials that are unacceptable at our sites.”

MSD delivered the nine mercury-containing flow meters to Rumpke Sanitary Landfill for disposal on June 22, 2013. This situation at the landfill presented no health risk to the community or the environment during the entire process.

“During the emergency response and remediation in June and throughout 2013, MSD coordinated with multiple public agencies to coordinate with and provide information to Hamilton County Administration, Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency, Hamilton County Health Department, Cincinnati Office of Environmental Quality, Ohio EPA, and USEPA,” added Parrott. “Since this incident, we have reviewed and updated our environmental health and safety programs and procedures to ensure an event like this does not happen again. Protecting public health and the environment is our priority.”

Excavation costs at Rumpke are estimated at \$515,000.

About MSD:

The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) serves the wastewater removal and treatment needs of approximately 230,000 residential and commercial users in Hamilton County, Ohio as well as parts of the three adjacent counties of Butler, Clermont, and Warren. MSD’s service area covers more than 290+ square miles, and includes over 200,000 separate sewer connections which tie into approximately 3,000 miles of sanitary and combined sewers. For more information, visit www.msdc.org

About Rumpke:

Rumpke Consolidated Companies, Inc. has been committed to keeping neighborhoods and businesses clean and green since 1932 by providing environmentally friendly waste disposal solutions. Headquartered near Cincinnati with regional offices throughout Ohio, Rumpke is one of the nation’s largest privately owned residential and commercial waste and recycling firms, employing more than 2,500 people and providing service to areas of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and West Virginia. Rumpke divisions include Rumpke Recycling, The William-Thomas Group, and Rumpke Hydraulics. For more information, visit www.Rumpke.com.

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