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WASTE MANAGEMENT INC (WMI) OPERATING AT THE COLLIER COUNTY LANDFILL RENEWS DEP AIR PERMIT TO BURN METHANE AT THE COLLIER COUNTY LANDFILL WITHOUT ANY DISCUSSION WITH THE ESTATES RESIDENTS?

Methane (CH4) is a colorless, odorless, highly flammable combustible gas. It is the main component in Natural Gas. It is created in landfills by the decomposition of organic waste. Landfills are required by law to collect the methane generated (CFR Part 60). However, it is left to the operator of the Landfill (WMI) on how to collect and how to dispose of it. WMI chooses to burn it.

The biggest problem with a gas like methane or natural gas is making sure there are NO LEAKS, and NO ACCIDENTAL IGNITIONS that could lead to explosions.

Leaks that are not known/found can cause huge explosions, i.e. the San Bruno, California Pipeline Explosion. Natural Gas was leaking at a certain location for a period of time. The amount of gas built up in a small area, then an unknown ignition source caused the explosion.

On 02 Oct 2020, WMI applied to DEP to replace a 3000 scfm flare to burn the methane generated by the landfill. On 14 Oct 2020 WMI published a Public Notice in the Naples Daily News of their intention to replace the flare.

In the Public Notice for the permit renewal, DEP allows the public 14 Days to make comments about concerns for this type of activity, burning off methane with flares. 26 October 2020GGEACA did submit a letter stating concerns. [Click here for GGEACA’S letter.](http://ggeaca.homestead.com/2020_1026_GGEACA_COMMENT_LETTER_ON_AIR_PERMIT_0210051-027-AC.docx)  Or see below.

After the GGEACA letter is DEP’s response to concerns. DEP issued the permit [0210051-027-AC](https://fldep.dep.state.fl.us/air/emission/apds/default.asp) to WMI on 06 Nov 2020. DEP included their responses to GGEACA’s concerns in “attached documents” after the permit was issued. [Click here for DEP responses](http://ggeaca.homestead.com/2020_1106_WMI_METHANE_FLAIR_AIR_PERMIT__0210051-027-AC__Final_Determination.doc). Or see below.

GGEACA has never been contacted or shown any concern by WMI or Collier County about the buildup of methane gas, or safety measures next to the Golden Gate Estates Community or the Paradise Sports Park.

Maybe more attention needs to be paid to this issue before there is another Environmental Turnkey Solutions Mulch Fire or San Bruno California Gas Leak and explosion here in the Estates. In both cases it was nobody’s fault, because NOBODY WAS WATCHING.

Let us know what you think…………<mailto:estates–areavoice@embarqmail.com>