

# Questions and Answers

## Testing & Monitoring Questions

### **1. Is Chiquita measuring dimethyl sulfide (DMS) and other sulfides in the community?**

Yes. Under its Community Air Monitoring Program, since September 2022, Chiquita has been continuously sampling and/or monitoring for particulate matter and hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) in ambient air across the community, while also evaluating wind direction and speed. Additionally, Chiquita has been conducting air sampling throughout the community for specific landfill gas components, listed in Table 1 of South Coast AQMD Rule 1150.1. Chiquita began collecting samples to evaluate for all sulfur components listed in SCAQMD Method 307-91, which includes both H<sub>2</sub>S and DMS, among others, in August 2023. Monthly data reports and quarterly summary reports will be submitted to the County and posted on this webpage.

For more information on Chiquita's Community Air Monitoring Program please see the Air Monitoring and Health Impacts section of this webpage.

### **2. What are the current levels of DMS that you are measuring?**

As of August 2023, DMS has not been detected across the community (the DMS detection limit is 10 parts per billion (ppb)). Weekly testing for DMS in the community surrounding the Landfill began on August 14, 2023. As Chiquita continues its air sampling efforts, this answer will be updated to reflect the most recent data. Monthly reports containing data from Chiquita's air monitoring program and quarterly summary reports will be posted on this webpage, along with a summary of findings from a toxicologist.

Chiquita will continue to work with third-party experts to conduct ambient air monitoring and sampling across nearby communities, and to communicate results promptly with all interested parties.

### **3. What is the allowable concentration for DMS?**

Currently, the only exposure guideline established for DMS is related to worker exposures. The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists has set the threshold limit value (TLV) for DMS to be 10 parts per million (10,000 ppb), protective of exposures over an 8-hour workday. The TLV is the maximum average airborne concentration that one could be exposed during an 8-hour

workday and 40-hour workweek for an entire working lifetime with no significant adverse health effects.

At the request of the County, CTEH toxicologists are currently reviewing the most recent scientific literature on DMS to develop health-based DMS values protective of the general public. Chiquita will provide additional information on DMS results following CTEH's review.

### **Health Questions**

#### **4. How will you assess the short- and long-term health impacts to the community?**

Air monitoring and sampling data are being compared to applicable human health-protective screening benchmarks, including those protective of acute (short-term) exposures, as well as those protective of chronic (long-term) exposures. Health-protective screening benchmarks utilized include those established by federal and state health agencies such as the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. Where no health-protective screening benchmarks exist, CTEH will develop them using established risk-assessment methodologies, and present them to relevant government health agencies, as well as Chiquita's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

#### **5. When will we hear from the toxicologists?**

CTEH is in the process of reviewing all available air monitoring and sampling data and is working with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH), South Coast AQMD, and Chiquita to determine next steps. CTEH's initial findings, based on the August 2023 data, are posted on this webpage. Chiquita will continue to update this webpage with information and updates as they are made available. Chiquita will also share information from the toxicologists with the relevant government agencies, Chiquita's Community Advisory Committee (CAC), and the TAC.

#### **6. What are the potential health impacts of DMS?**

Based on the existing air monitoring data collected across the community, emissions of DMS from the Chiquita Canyon Landfill do not present a human health risk. However, because DMS has an odor that can be detected at very low concentrations, one may still perceive "cabbage-like" odors.

DMS can be smelled at concentrations as low as 1 ppb, which is approximately equivalent to one drop of water in an Olympic-sized swimming pool. For comparison, the level at which DMS can be smelled is 10,000 times lower than the TLV established to be protective of workers in occupational settings. (See Answer 3.)

Whereas studies of DMS in the general population are scarce, studies evaluating exposures in workers have documented nose and eye irritation at concentrations greater than 6,000,000 ppb.

It is important to note that, although potential exposure to low concentrations of DMS do not appear to result in adverse health impacts, some individuals may experience a reaction to the odor, similar to if one were near an individual wearing a strong perfume.

### **Local Resident Air Filter Program Questions**

#### **7. Does the air filter provided remove gas?**

The California Air Resources Board certified air filters contain granular activated carbon (GAC). A GAC filter will remove specific pollutants, including gaseous particles and particulate matter, from the air. A GAC filter is also able to filter out chemicals with strong odors, including DMS.

#### **8. Chiquita's Local Resident Air Filter program states that Chiquita will be initially providing one air filtration device per household in order to distribute to as many households as possible. Will additional air filtration devices be available for those needing more coverage?**

Yes. If you require a second air filtration device for your residence, please let us know and Chiquita will make a second device available to you.

### **Other Questions**

#### **9. What is the timeline for resolving the odor issues?**

Chiquita is taking a multi-pronged approach to address the landfill reaction and related odor issues. At this time, Chiquita does not have a definite timeline for the resolution of this issue but will continue to provide the public with updates on each step of the process as they become available.

- On October 10, 2023, Chiquita received the new permanent flare onsite. Under the Stipulated Order for Abatement with the South Coast AQMD in Case No. 6177-4, Chiquita now has 45 days to install the new flare. Chiquita's goal is to beat this deadline and have the flare operational sooner.
- Chiquita is expanding the landfill gas well system. In the month of September 2023, Chiquita installed 19 new vertical wells and connected them either to the existing landfill gas collection system or the portable thermal oxidizer. Chiquita is continuing to install new wells as needed and will provide updates on these additional improvements in its monthly reports to the South Coast AQMD. These monthly reports will also be posted on this webpage.
- Chiquita is enhancing the liquids collection and control system at the Landfill to improve liquids management. This includes outfitting wells with pumps and installing dedicated liquids removal wells in areas affected by liquids. Additionally, this involves increasing pumping and piping capabilities for liquids transport, increasing on-site liquids storage capacity, and securing alternative options for liquids disposal in case current options become limiting. More specifically, in the month of September 2023, Chiquita installed 21 new pumps in vertical gas wells, increasing the total number of vertical wells equipped with pumps to 31. Chiquita will also provide updates on these improvements in its monthly reports to the South Coast AQMD.
- Chiquita has designed and is in the process of procuring and installing a geosynthetic cover over western portions of the Landfill to limit the migration of landfill gas from the site. Chiquita will also provide updates on the procurement and installation of this geomembrane in its monthly reports to the South Coast AQMD.