

Arkansas Department of Health
Review of Hydrogen Sulfide Air Monitoring Data in Crossett, AR

March 4 – 17, 2015

Continuous hydrogen sulfide (*or*, H₂S) air quality monitoring has been conducted by the TRC Environmental Corporation (TRC) on behalf of the Georgia-Pacific Crossett Mill in Crossett, AR. The air monitoring data and biweekly summary from TRC for March 4 – 17, 2015, have been reviewed by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH).

During the two-week period, rolling (continuous) average levels of hydrogen sulfide were below short duration (acute) health screening levels. These health screening levels apply to the general public, including sensitive individuals, such as people with asthma or other chronic respiratory conditions. The screening values are intended to provide health-based standards for interpreting air monitoring data. Monitoring data may be used as a tool to help determine whether a facility is controlling hydrogen sulfide releases.

Hydrogen sulfide is a heavier-than-air, colorless gas with an odor of rotten eggs. The lowest level a person can smell a substance (*or*, odor threshold) for hydrogen sulfide is lower than the health screening level. People can generally smell hydrogen sulfide at very low levels before they are known to cause a health affect. During the two-week period, levels of hydrogen sulfide did reach an odor threshold level.

For more information, see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Hydrogen Sulfide fact sheet [[linked to this website](#)]. It is important to note that hydrogen sulfide exposures at low levels have not been shown to result in any lasting health effects. Hydrogen sulfide is not known to cause cancer. Daily hydrogen sulfide air monitoring will continue to be analyzed by ADH and reported every two weeks.