

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

**March 18 – 31, 2015**

Continuous hydrogen sulfide (*or*, H<sub>2</sub>S) 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 18 – 31, 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, with the exception of the late evening and early morning hours on March 30 – 31, 2015. The reporting of these levels of hydrogen sulfide were found to be above health screening levels as previously stated in a “Special Data Review Announcement” in order to notify the community. The higher concentration levels of hydrogen sulfide happened in the late evening (March 30) and early hours of the morning (March 31) when most people would have been indoors. The possible health effects were likely to have been temporary and more likely to have occurred in sensitive individuals, such as people with asthma and other chronic respiratory conditions. Should anyone feel they had experienced possible health effects related to this event, please contact a physician or health care professional.

The health screening levels used during this two-week period 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 has been completed for a six-month period. Summarized data for the six-month period will be analyzed by ADH and reported in a final health consultation document.