

The ongoing methane testing that began earlier this month in the areas in and around the Midway and Settler's Hill landfills is continuing, as Waste Management has been delivering regular updates on readings from its underground probes.

While most of the tests have not detected methane, there have been two probes, which have detected methane south of Fabyan Parkway. Today, a probe approximately 1/3 of a mile west of that probe (located on the north side of Orion Street, between Surrey and Nagel) detected methane, but with no pressure. That same probe did not detect methane in earlier testing. As previously reported, a probe along Raddant Road, just south of Fabyan Parkway, continues to detect methane.

Hundreds of other tests have been carried out from dozens of sub-surface and above ground locations, such as sewer lines and other utilities, and those have come back with no methane detections.

Waste Management is working closely with the City of Batavia, City of Geneva, Kane County and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in an effort to determine why they are finding fluctuations. Methane levels can be impacted by everything from underground water levels, barometric pressure in the air and levels of gas from the landfill itself.

As Waste Management investigates the readings, its staff are also expanding monitoring systems by installing a series of deeper gas monitoring probes and extending the site's gas collection and monitoring system. Vacuum-driven extraction wells, which already exist within the landfill complex, are being added near the former Kane County Sheriff's facility north of Fabyan Parkway. The collected methane is collected at the center of the landfill complex and converted to fuel, which is used to generate electricity for our area.

As this work continues, we have asked Waste Management to continue to provide regular updates on readings and their progress on both short-term and long-term remediation. That work may include a request by Waste Management to conduct testing in some nearby homes. Three homes have already been tested in this area, with no methane detected.

As has been done in previous in-home tests, Waste Management crews will wear visible company attire and will be accompanied by members of the Batavia Fire Department. We would encourage residents to allow Waste Management to conduct those in-home tests. Waste Management will identify homes in the affected area to whom in-home monitors will be offered to allow for continuous testing. The County recommends that all contacted homes accept the in-home monitoring devices.

We will continue to provide updates to you through the City of Batavia and Kane County websites, www.cityofbatavia.net/midway and www.countyofkane.org. In addition, Waste Management has established a tollfree number for those with questions, 1-855-964-4663.