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The Jackson County Health Department Studies the Potential Health Impacts of Proposed Landfill

Landfill Odors and Emissions May Impact Those With Respiratory Issues

Independence, MO: The Jackson County Health Department (JACOHD) is taking a closer look at the potential health impacts that a proposed landfill could have on those living in our community. The study comes as the company, KC Recycling and Waste Solutions, has confirmed their intention to build a landfill in south Kansas City. **The goal of our new impact assessment is to make sure Eastern Jackson County residents know how a new landfill could potentially impact their health.**

For more than a year, KC Recycling and Waste Solutions has been exploring potential sites for a new landfill. The site is 120 acres of property that directly borders Jackson County, and is within two miles of an elementary school (Summit Pointe Elementary School) in the Lee's Summit school district.

Community leaders across Jackson County have objected to the potential landfill and passed resolutions in opposition to the project. But in Jefferson City, a recent filibuster in the Missouri Senate prevented legislation from moving forward that would have killed the proposal.

One of the main concerns with municipal solid waste landfills is residents' exposure to the chemical gasses that may pollute the atmosphere. JACOHD found that the biggest health risks of landfill gas emissions are **short term respiratory distress and the potential exacerbation of existing respiratory health issues, such as asthma.**

"Frequently, the primary concerns around a new project or development are often economic. However, it's important to acknowledge the health impacts as well and we aim to contribute to this dialogue," says Meghan Senne, MPH, Health Policy Coordinator at JACOHD. "While there

are limited studies in the US on the health impact of nearby landfills, there is some evidence of short term respiratory issues.”

The assessment from the JACOHD also acknowledges that our region should look for solutions to decrease the amount of waste it is creating, because future landfills in close proximity to municipalities, housing developments, and schools may be unavoidable.

[Read the Full Health Impact Assessment](#)

About the Jackson County Health Department: We offer services, provide programs, and advocate for policies so that all people have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy. Learn more at www.jacohd.org.