

May 19, 2026

Mayor Ashley Qualls-Groves
City of Galena
211 W. 7th Street
Galena, KS 66739

Mads Gisselbaek
Jordan Disposal LLC
1040 East Front Street
Galena, KS 67339

RE: Subsurface smoldering and March 16, 2026 H2S exceedance at the City of Galena Construction and Demolition Landfill, Permit 738

On March 16, 2026, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) was notified by the City of Galena, that the Drager air monitor located at the Galena Construction and Demolition landfill (Landfill) recorded a hydrogen sulfide concentration that exceeded 1 ppm. Pursuant to KAR 28-29-333(b), a hydrogen sulfide concentration above 1 ppm for on-site personnel constitutes an action level requiring the owner or operator to notify KDHE and initiate one month of assessment monitoring upon detection of the exceedance. Further exceedances were recorded on April 18, May 2, May 7, and May 11. The Landfill remains in assessment monitoring while KDHE determines what actions must be taken.

Previously, on March 5, 2026, a subsurface smoldering fire was identified at the Jordan Disposals site. In accordance with KAR 28-29-308(c)(2)(A), which states that the owner or operator shall “initiate and continue the use of appropriate firefighting methods until all smoldering, smoking, and burning cease”, the “Subsurface Landfill Fire Action Plan” (Plan) was submitted by Jordan Disposal and approved by KDHE on March 25. The approved plan specifies that fire mitigation activities may proceed only when wind conditions are from the south and between 3 and 25 mph. The approved plan specifies that Jordan Disposal will continue excavation of smoldering waste for 5 working days which is approximately 40 working hours. However, KDHE did not establish a date by which the excavation work must be complete and at this time Jordan Disposal has not performed any excavation work as required by the Plan.

KDHE believes that the release of hydrogen sulfide is being exacerbated by the ongoing subsurface smoldering event and that elimination of the fire would significantly reduce hydrogen sulfide emissions at the facility. Therefore, **Jordan Disposal must complete work defined by the Plan by June 19, 2026.** Completion of the Plan does not require the smoldering to be completely extinguished. Completion of the Plan means that the

proposed number of work days to address the subsurface smoldering have been completed. **Once complete, Jordan Disposal must submit documentation outlining observations of the extent of smoldering still present.**

If subsurface smoldering conditions remain present after June 19, 2026, Jordan Disposals and the City of Galena shall retain a qualified consultant and submit a long-term fire mitigation and extinguishment plan to KDHE.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me by phone at (785) 296-3746 or by email at joseph.hacker@ks.gov.



Joseph Hacker, PE
Solid Waste Landfills Supervisor

Kansas Dept of Health and Environment
Bureau of Waste Management
1000 SW Jackson St, Suite 320
Topeka, KS 66612-1367

EC: Tracey Roberts, City of Galena
Michelle Murphy, Jordan Disposals
Doug Cole, Southeast District Office, KDHE
Heather Merritt, Charles Bowers, Maria Ianc, KDHE