

Presentation to Commissioner 01/16/25

1. We are here to talk about a problem occurring Oak Run has been experiencing for more than 17-years. Residents have had to deal with putrid sewage odors in their neighborhoods, seeping into homes, effecting respiratory and taste, having a negative impact to their quality of life, constantly hearing loud mechanical sounds echoing among their homes, disturbing the ability to enjoy quality restorative sleep and the negative visual impact of this Waste Management Treatment Facility

2. **History:** On December 18, 2024, one of these uncontrolled, prolonged odor events ripped through our neighborhoods. This was the catalyst for neighbors to form this committee. To better understand these events, the committee researched Waste Management Treatment Facility operations.

3. We quickly learned the harmful potential of these odor occurrences, how this was slowly effecting our quality of life, and the effects and stigma attached to having a waste management facility in close proximity. After review of the County's expansion plans, we learned Oak Run will be one of the five major Waste Management Treatment facilities servicing Marion County.

4. On December 18, 2025, the Seniors Working Together brought these concerns to the County Commissioner's attention and received a warm and concerned response. We left the meeting with hope that our Commissioner, Ms. Kathy Bryant, heard us and would intervene, taking appropriate and immediate action to resolve these concerns and ensure future intervention to eliminate negative impacts during Marion County's planned expansion of this facility. To resolve these issues, developing a firm relationship and establishing two way open communication will build bridges, remove walls, and establish time lines and accountability between Marion County Utilities and the residents of Oak Run. The reason we're here today is to seek resolution and clarification to our ongoing concerns and the impact to our community from the expansion of the current Waste Management Treatment Facility. Our committee presented 28 questions to the Commissioner and Utilities Director as a result of the ongoing concerns. Simply put, the residents of Oak Run do not want to smell, hear, or see this plant.

5. **Key Facts: (How this system operates)** Due to the Waste Management Facility in Oak Run reaching maximum capacity approximately two years ago, an additional tank

was added unbeknownst to residents, and the expansion began. With this addition, the odor emissions have dramatically increased. Throughout Oak Run, numerous areas such as sites along the main boulevard, around our recreational areas, throughout many neighborhoods, around man hole covers, force purge valves and line purge valves, lift stations and our clubs and restaurant areas, along with the main plant, emit a strong, offensive, raw sewage odor.

6. ***Air Quality and Respiratory Issues:*** One of the primary concerns for individuals living near water treatment plants is the quality of air. Prolonged exposure can lead to conditions such as asthma, bronchitis, and other respiratory and skin disorders. Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to these pollutants.

7. ***Noise Pollution:*** Another significant health concern is noise pollution. Water treatment plants operate around the clock, and the machinery and pumps generate substantial noise. Chronic exposure to high levels of noise can lead to hearing loss, sleep disturbances, and heightened stress levels.

8. ***Land Utilization:*** The land used for water treatment plants is often substantial, contributing to deforestation and habitat destruction and can lead to ongoing conflicts between conservation efforts and urban development and residents living nearby.

9. The committee can be reached at: **seniors_working_together_oakrun@aol.com**
It was created to streamline the communication process between the Utilities and residents so no one is left out and all have a voice. The committee is comprised of the following committee members: Chair-Ana Ortiz, 2nd Chair- Steve Stazak, Member Randy Howe-Member, Kit Leavitt-Neighborhood Representative, Mickey Hoey-Board Liaison, Keith Meneskie-Member-Researcher & developer, Ralph Lambert-Member/Editor and Jean Low-Secretary & Speaker.

10. Ms. Bryant and Mr. Cunningham we invite you to return throughout the process to meet with the committee **seniors_working_together_oakrun@aol.com** and concerned residents to discuss the ongoing progress and sincerely appreciate your efforts to bring resolution and relief to Oak Run residents. Thank you for your time and concern. At this time I invite our special guest and representative to the floor.