

Bulletin Update #5

February 27, 2025

Recently, the NRCB has received an uptick in the number of complaints regarding odours in High River. A few factors may be contributing to this increase. In an effort to meet the requirements of NRCB Compliance Directive 25-04, Rimrock Feeders is currently in the process of an extensive cleanout of their catch basin. This cleanout began on February 10 and approximately 70 per cent was completed during the extreme cold weather that occurred. The recent warm weather has created additional challenges in completing the work. To date, the cleanout is approximately 85 per cent complete. It is expected that this work may contribute to some odour. As we have observed in the past, the abrupt change in temperature would also be expected to have some odour impacts.

Another variable of the catch basin cleanout with potential to impact odour, is the stockpiling of manure that has been excavated. As is standard industry practice, the manure will be spread and incorporated into the soil this spring, once field conditions allow it. While there may be some resulting odour short-term, it is anticipated that the cleanout process will have a net benefit long term.

In response, the NRCB has increased inspections of the Rimrock feedlot, as well as the monitoring of the odours in the town of High River. In the coming weeks, the NRCB will continue to monitor the progress of the catch basin cleanout and the effect on odour production.

This spring the NRCB will once again deploy our CT Air monitors to help evaluate the effect of the catch basin cleanout among, other things. The NRCB will continue to evaluate emissions from specific odour sources at the feedlot and surrounding area to help inform evidence-based decisions about management practices.

The NRCB also continues to work closely with Alberta Health Services to share air monitoring information regularly, as well as with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation.