Archived: Tuesday, November 10, 2026 10:14:17 AM
From: Tessa.Lenz@WasteConnections.com
Email received: Fri, 6 Nov 2026 18:04:48
Sent: Fri, 6 Nov 2026 18:04:37
To: Nathaniel Dickel
Cc: Sarah Phillips
Subject: RE: Chiquita Canyon Landfill – Case No. 6177-4: Leak Report (Condition 27(e))
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Good Morning Mr. Dickel,

Please see responses below.

Best Regards,

Tessa Lenz
Environmental Manager
Chiquita Canyon Landfill
Cell: (661) 812-2661
Waste Connections | 29201 Henry Mayo Dr. | Castaic, CA 91384
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From: Nathaniel Dickel <ndickel@aqmd.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2026 11:55 AM
To: Tessa Lenz <Tessa.Lenz@WasteConnections.com>; Baitong Chen <BChen@aqmd.gov>; Christina Ojeda <cojeda@aqmd.gov>
Cc: Sarah Phillips <Sarah.Phillips@WasteConnections.com>; Matt Breuer <Matt.Breuer@WasteConnections.com>; Bill Haley <WILLIAM.HALEY@WasteConnections.com>; christopher.mcguire@dtsc.ca.gov; zanalee.zmily@dtsc.ca.gov; emorofuji@ph.lacounty.gov; Travis Rohde <trohde@aqmd.gov>
Subject: RE: Chiquita Canyon Landfill – Case No. 6177-4: Leak Report (Condition 27(e))

Good Morning Tessa,

Thank you for providing this leak report.

The report indicates that the leak was caused by foaming leachate entering Tank D1, however, the report is missing detail on how the leak occurred. Please provide the following information by **November 6, 2026**.

- Please provide further detail on the defoamer valve and how it functions. Are these the same as air release valves (ARVs)?

No, the defoamer valve is different from the ARVs. The defoamer valve controls the addition of defoaming agent to the leachate as it is pumped into the tanks, helping reduce foam formation and accumulation. It is separate

from the tank's venting system and does not function as an ARV. At the time of the incident, a third-party contractor had temporarily shut off the defoamer because of active construction in the area.

- Please provide further explanation for how the leak occurred from the closed tank, and how the foaming caused a leak.

Tank D1 has a mushroom-style pressure-relief valve in addition to a separate top manway secured with wingnuts. With the defoamer turned off, leachate continued flowing into Tank D1, and heavy foaming developed. Foam accumulated in the space above the liquid. Based on our current understanding, pressure built up, causing the mushroom pressure-relief valve/lid to open, allowing foamed leachate to escape through the opening.

- Please detail the tank components/piping through which the leak occurred (e.g. tank P/V valve).

Foamed leachate passed through the opening beneath the mushroom pressure-relief valve/lid on top of Tank D1.

- Based on the limited information provided, it sounds like pressurized foamed leachate and vapors were released from the tank P/V valve. Please confirm if this is accurate, or provide further explanation and clarity.

Yes, that understanding is generally accurate. Based on Chiquita's current understanding, increased pressure within Tank D1 caused the mushroom-style pressure-relief valve to open, allowing primarily foamed leachate, accompanied by a moderate amount of vapors, to flow through the opening beneath the valve.

- Approximately how long did the leak occur, or how long was it estimated to have occurred?

Staff discovered the leak at approximately 6:15 a.m. Chiquita has reviewed onsite camera footage and determined that the leak appears to have begun at approximately 4:00 a.m. and stopped at approximately 6:45 a.m. Therefore, based on Chiquita's current understanding, the leak is estimated to have continued for approximately 165 minutes, from 4:00 a.m. until 6:45 a.m. Cleanup was completed by approximately 9 a.m.

Thank you,

Nate Dickel | Senior Air Quality Engineer
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Phone: 909.396.2413 | ndickel@aqmd.gov

From: Tessa.Lenz@WasteConnections.com <Tessa.Lenz@WasteConnections.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2026 8:35 AM
To: Baitong Chen <bchen@aqmd.gov>; Nathaniel Dickel <ndickel@aqmd.gov>; Christina Ojeda <cojeda@aqmd.gov>
Cc: Sarah Phillips <Sarah.Phillips@WasteConnections.com>; Matt Breuer <Matt.Breuer@WasteConnections.com>; WILLIAM.HALEY@WasteConnections.com; christopher.mcguire@dtsc.ca.gov; zanalee.zmily@dtsc.ca.gov; emorofuji@ph.lacounty.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Chiquita Canyon Landfill – Case No. 6177-4: Leak Report (Condition 27(e))

All,

In accordance with Condition 27(e) of the Stipulated Order for Abatement in Case No. 6177-4, based on its current knowledge of the event, Chiquita Canyon, LLC (Chiquita) provides the following report detailing a leak of characteristically non-hazardous leachate associated with Group C from Tank D1 onto liner in Grid 94.

(1) the date and time of the leak or spill;

- The leak was discovered on October 1, 2026, at approximately 6:15 a.m. Chiquita acknowledges that this report is being submitted after the applicable reporting deadline and is taking steps to further improve its internal leak and spill reporting process.

(2) area designation inspected;

- Characteristically non-hazardous leachate associated with Group C leaked from Tank D1 onto liner in Grid 94. Liquid from the leak did not reach either stormwater basin.

(3) the name of the person that discovered the leak or spill;

- Alex Rodriguez.

(4) written acknowledgement that they did, or did not, take corrective action with rationale for these actions;

- Upon discovering the leak, incoming flow to Tank D1 was immediately stopped, and the leachate was redirected to Tank D2.

(5) a root cause analysis on why and how the leak or spill occurred;

- Based on Chiquita's current knowledge, it appears that a third-party contractor inadvertently closed a defoamer valve while performing work associated with the deployment of the geosynthetic cover. As a result, the leachate entering Tank D1 began to foam, causing a mixture of foam and liquid to leak onto the liner. Chiquita attributes this leak to third-party contractor operator error.

(6) the estimated quantity of the leak or spill;

- Chiquita conservatively estimates that approximately 50 gallons of characteristically non-hazardous leachate liquid and foam leaked from Tank D1 onto the liner.

(7) corrective actions to clean and/or remove the leak or spill;

- In addition to the measures discussed above, a vacuum truck was used to collect the leaked liquid and foam. The exterior of Tank D1 and the affected area of the liner were then pressure washed while simultaneously applying vacuum to collect the wash water. Cleanup was completed within approximately 5 hours.

(8) corrective actions implemented or to be implemented, including an estimated timeline, to prevent future recurrence;

- Chiquita discussed the circumstances of the valve closure with the third-party contractor and removed the associated valve handles to reduce the potential for inadvertent valve closures during future contractor activities. Chiquita will continue to inspect equipment, perform maintenance, and implement additional corrective actions as needed to reduce the likelihood of similar leaks.

(9) the type of affiliation of the operator involved in the root cause;

- A third-party contractor was involved in the root cause of this leak.

(10) whether any individuals involved in the root cause had previously received training on applicable operations to avoid leaks or spills; and

- Chiquita does not provide training to third-party contractors; however, Chiquita routinely discusses spill- and leak-prevention practices with contractors, and Chiquita personnel have received training on applicable operations to prevent leaks and spills.

(11) the number of times individuals involved in the root cause had previously been involved in the root cause of a leachate leak or spill.

- Chiquita has not determined whether the third-party contractor involved in the event had previously been involved in the root cause of another leachate leak or spill.

Best Regards,

Tessa Lenz
Environmental Manager
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