



Diane N. Tradd
Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

MEMORANDUM

R. Eric Slagle
Director of Development Services

TO: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*
Diane Tradd, Asst. City Manager/DPD Director

David Fuller
Building Commissioner

FROM: R. Eric Slagle, Director of Development Services

RE: INFORMATIONAL: MARKLEY – GENERATOR OPERATION

On September 12, Development Services staff went out to the Markley site, specifically Senior Health Inspector Shawn Machado and Local Building Inspector Jose Negron and myself, to observe the generators in operation. At the site, Markley described their generator schedule, which involves running a single generator for 5 minutes, once a week, to ensure it is in working order. Also, one day a year, the generators are run for 4-6 hours while the electrical system is taken offline and serviced. There are currently 2 generators on the south side of the building, with plans to install 2 more in that location. Additional generators are proposed for the north side of the property as well.

Staff stood on Markley's property approximately halfway between the generators and the property line. Markley turned on a single generator so we could observe any smoke or noise from our location. Even though we were closer to the generator than any residence, we observed very limited visible smoke from the generator, and smelled no fumes. The noise was minimal at our location. Markley turned on the second generator so we could observe both running at the same time. We had generally the same observations, and were unable to smell fumes. Both generators were run for approximately 10 minutes, and our observations were consistent. We walked back to our vehicles past the generators and did not smell any fumes. Staff does not believe there are any grounds for a claim of a public health issue, and not even for a nuisance from any abutting neighbor, based on our investigation and observation.

Additionally, please note that the generator operation, permitting and oversight does not fall within the purview of the City of Lowell, but rather they are permitted at the State and Federal level. As such, we have verbally requested that Markley continue to operate the generators in a manner so that smoke does not cause problems for the neighbors. That being said, any formal complaints should be directed to the MassDEP, though, to reiterate, we did not see any conditions that would impact an adjoining property in our visit to the site.

We will continue to follow up with Markley regarding their various projects at the property.

ES

10/10/2018