

For Immediate Release – August 2, 2022

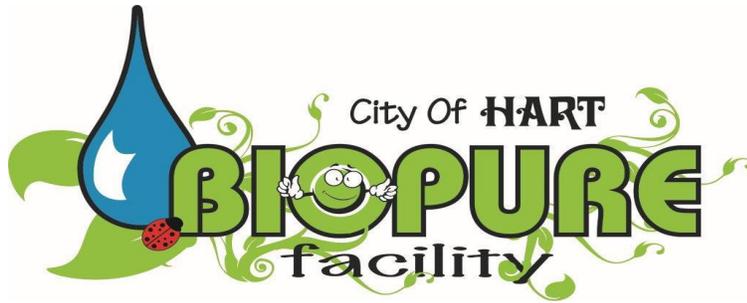
City of Hart Public Service Announcement **RE: Odors from BioPure Treatment System**

The City of Hart is proud to support our strong agriculture industry by using its Electrical, Water, and Wastewater Infrastructure to receive and process over 1,000,000 gallons of flow per day. That flow is typically 98% from agriculture and other industry partners in Hart. The heavy use of those infrastructure systems contributes significantly to overall operating and maintenance costs, while helping to support thousands of jobs in West Michigan.

The City of Hart's BioPure Department is located 1 mile east of Hart. BioPure uses a process that retains the flow and aerates it with large blowers allowing a natural process to occur where bacteria feeds on the organic waste that is a byproduct of agricultural processing that occurs in Hart. This natural process takes several weeks. With close supervision from our technicians in the BioPure Laboratory, at the end of the process, the water left over tests cleaner than the water in most inland lakes.

Once the water is clean, the result is a byproduct referred to as biosolids. Biosolids are the dead organisms produced from the BioPure treatment process. The City of Hart is under contract to haul the resulting biosolids each year. This hauling is essential to sustaining BioPure efficient operation. There are currently 3 licensed biosolid hauling companies doing business in the State of Michigan making it difficult to obtain this service. In 2020 the city biosolid hauling did not take place due to COVID restrictions. In 2021, 789 dry tons of biosolids were hauled off-site more remained, but due to logistics, hauling of these was not possible. The presence of these remaining biosolids is what is prompting the additional odors that we continue to experience this summer. This year the city has budgeted to haul roughly 900 dry tons of biosolids at a cost of almost \$500,000 dollars and will eliminate most odors.

Once the BioPure process is complete the biosolids that are hauled are used as fertilizer to grow crops that can feed livestock. Biosolids are applied (Injected) into the ground with heavy machinery. Farmland is needed to apply biosolids, once crops are planted, the biosolids can no longer be applied. Due to the excessive precipitation this past spring, Hart's contracted biosolid hauler was delayed in finishing work in other cities resulting in the loss of available farmland to inject. The City of Hart is working closely with the contractor to ensure we can haul this fall solving this ongoing odor issue.



RE: Odors from BioPure Treatment System **Questions and Answers**

Q. Why does it smell in Hart sometimes?

- The odors are caused by the presence of biosolids in the BioPure Treatment Ponds
- Periodically a strong change in temperature can also cause the BioPure Treatment Ponds to turn which causes bacteria to surface that would not have otherwise.

Q. Why doesn't BioPure fix the odors?

- BioPure continues to work closely with consultants, engineers, and universities seeking guidance on how to best operate our BioPure Treatment Facility.
- One large challenge is that the waste processed at the BioPure Facility is **98% agriculture**. This is unusual because most treatment plants process more human waste. Being unusual, research and operational best practices is lacking as there are few comparable facilities nationally.

Q. What is BioPure doing to fix this?

- BioPure works regularly with consultants, engineers, and several world-class universities seeking advice and guidance.
- The BioPure staff seeks education and constant training to better address issues as they arise.
- BioPure is looking into finding new and innovative ways to increase redundancy in the event of equipment failure and reduce the risk of critical issues such as the lack of available biosolid hauling or land to apply biosolids to.

Q. How can I learn more about this?

- If you have further questions, feel free to call BioPure Superintendent, Paul Cutter at 873-2488 to discuss. BioPure Plant tours are also available by appointment to learn more about the process. Paul is happy to explain in detail, the process in which our facility works if you have interest.

Thank You for taking the time to read this information. Again, the City of Hart and I apologize for these odors. I'm Paul Cutter the BioPure Superintendent for the City of Hart. I think it's important to be transparent about the situation we are in that has caused odors in the past few months.

Respectfully,

Paul Cutter, City of Hart BioPure Superintendent