



## August 19, 2022 Back River statement - odor concerns

### What You Need to Know

The Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Environmental Service and Baltimore City have been working to address concerns in recent days about increased odors in areas near the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant. The increased odors appear to have been related to the cleaning of primary settling tanks at the plant and the removal of solids from those tanks. It is important to note that cleaning those tanks by Baltimore City represents a positive step and progress in improving the plant's performance. It is a critical component to restore full and compliant plant operations. Natural wood chips are now being mixed with liquid sludge to make that material suitable for transport off site. Onsite staff confirm that as of Friday, Aug. 19, odors have been noticeably reduced with wood chip blending. The City and state will continue both air monitoring and onsite assessments to ensure normal odor levels are maintained. Area residents are encouraged to notify MDE if significant odors reoccur by calling 410-537-3510 during working hours and 866-MDE-GOTO on nights, weekends and holidays.