



C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner

*Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment*

## Lee County Landfill Bishopville, Lee County, South Carolina

### **Subsurface Landfill Fire**

On June 18, 2009, a small fire, characterized as a Subsurface Landfill Fire, occurred at the Lee County Landfill near a gas extraction well on the top of the landfill toward the north slope, facing Interstate I-20. The fire occurred as a result of too much gas being routed through a well of the gas collection system in that area.

Representatives of the landfill reacted promptly to extinguish the fire and notify DHEC. Upon notification DHEC staff visited the site to ensure that the fire had been extinguished. DHEC staff also conducted a follow-up inspection at the site on June 19, 2009.

As a result of the fire, the affected well and four other wells within a 300 ft. radius of the fire were temporarily shutdown by Republic Services, Inc., the company that operates the Lee County Landfill. During shutdown, the wells are being monitored for gas quality, gas pressure, temperature, and carbon monoxide concentrations. Monitoring is expected to continue for approximately four (4) weeks from the date of the fire.

There is a potential of increased odors at the landfill during the shutdown period. Citizens should continue to report any excessive odors to our local DHEC office in Sumter at (803) 778-6548.