

Our Ref: F0161433

Mr Robert Freel
Secretary
Stonehouse Community Council
75 Lockhart Street
Stonehouse
ML9 3LX

If telephoning ask for:
Cara Everitt

5 August 2010

Dear Mr Freel

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Thank you for your recent email, received by us on 14 July 2010. We have applied the exemption under Section 39(2) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as we have determined that the information sought in your request is environmental information. We are therefore handling your request under the terms of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004. (EIRs)

We passed your enquiry to the SEPA Process Engineering Unit who provided the response below:

1) Bullet point 1 makes reference to an extended outage between December 2009 and March 2010. What does this mean? Was the plant operation during this period (Dec 2009 -March 2010) and if so were any breaches recorded. what happened between October and December2009. Was the plant running and if so were any records taken or breaches recorded.

During commissioning of the Dargavel Energy from Waste Facility in January 2010, problems were encountered with the superheater tubes of a boiler, attributed to fouling, high temperature and corrosion. An interim solution was proposed to SEPA by way of a Regulation 12 Notification. SEPA accepted the modification and determined that no immediate variation of the permit was required. Testing of the modification commenced on 11th March and commissioning proper recommenced on 29th March 2010. The plant was therefore not operational during January and February. No breaches of permit conditions were recorded between 10th December and 11th March.

2) In relation to bullet point 2 what action has SEPA taken and what sanctions or fines were imposed for these breaches.

SEPA closely monitors the operation of the plant, receives commissioning reports, carries out inspections and, where necessary, writes formally to the operator on specific issues. The PPC Permit requires that the cause of each breach is reported to SEPA as an "incident" together with details of the emission concentration recorded, the immediate actions taken by the Operator to bring the system back into compliance and details of the system adjustments carried out to minimise the risk of a repetition under similar process conditions. A warning letter regarding waste handling was issued on 27 April 2010. No other formal enforcement action has been taken in relation to the commissioning ELV breaches.

Also in relation to the answer provided what were the limit levels recorded for these breaches.



Chairman
David Sigsworth

Chief Executive
Dr Campbell Gemmell

Corporate Office

Erskine Court, Castle Business Park, Stirling FK9 4TR
tel 01786 457700 fax 01786 446885
www.sepa.org.uk

Emission Limit Value breaches are notified to SEPA under the "incident reporting procedures" of the PPC Permit. Records for each incident are available for inspection on our Public Register (East Kilbride Office).

Since commissioning recommenced in March 2010 (data correct to - 20 July 2010) there have been 10 recorded noise complaints, 5 activations of the by-pass stack and 88 ELV emission limit value breaches: 9 VOC / 14 CO / 30 low temp at Secondary Combustion Chamber exit / 31 low O₂ / 2 NO₂ / 1 SO₂ / 1 dust.

3) In relation to bullet point 3: How many announced, unannounced site inspections were carried out between October to December and December to May 2010. Can compliance monitoring work be further defined.

During October to December 2009, two announced site inspections were carried out, two site meetings, plus numerous inspections of data submissions and reports required by the PPP Permit. Compliance monitoring work is carried out in relation to Conditions of the PPC Permit under inspection at that time. The PPC Permit is available on SEPA's website via the attached link: http://www.sepa.org.uk/air/process_industry_regulation/pollution_prevention_control/public_participation_directive/ppd_consultations/closed/a1022412_14may09.aspx

During December 2009 to May 2010 – one announced site inspection was carried out, 4 site meetings, 4 visits to a nearby property regarding noise complaints, plus numerous inspections of data submissions and reports required by the PPC Permit.

4) The FOI response under bullet point 4 indicates that the reports arrive regularly. Please define regularly. Are daily reports submitted the following day or are they collated and submitted on a weekly or monthly basis.

The range of commissioning activities, tests and required reports are described in Section 3.9.4 of the PPC Permit – these reports arrive as the tests are completed. In addition to incident reports (as they occur), SEPA receive quarterly environmental monitoring reports (on emissions to air, waster and ash residue) plus monthly commissioning update reports and an annual report. All reports are available on our Public Register.

5) Bullet point 5. where is the boiler cooling tower, blow down and cleaning water taken for disposal.

The effluent from the boiler cooling tower etc is removed by vacuum tanker to the main sewer at Locharmoss (under a Trade Effluent Discharge Consent from Scottish Water) which is then treated at Troqueer Waste Water Treatment Plant.

6) What volume of water does the SUDS hold and when monitored how is this passed to SEPA is it fed into SEPA on a week basis or only on reaching set levels.

The Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) contains a lined basin with outlet (rather than a pond) designed to allow surface water to gradually pass through the retention system. The sizing of the SUDS was detailed in Appendix 4 of the original Application and SEPA's assessment of it can be found on previously supplied link to our PPC Permit and Determination Document. The PPC Permit requires weekly (pH, suspended solids, conductivity, temperature and hydrocarbons) and monthly (Biological Oxygen Demand) monitoring of the SUDS system by the Operator and reporting of results on a quarterly basis.

7) Bullet point 7. Please define routine audits of waste checking. Is it Weekly, monthly, quarterly six monthly..?

SEPA carry out routine waste audits during most site inspections (waste and ash handling is checked ~monthly at present). In addition, SEPA also receive copies of waste consignment / waste transfer notes for all wastes entering the facility on a daily to weekly basis. We also carry out forward audits at the final off-site disposal locations for the site bottom ash residues.

9) bullet point 9. Does not provide details of the national acceptable limits.?

Annexes 1 & 3 of Schedule 6 of the PPC Permit specify the dioxin emission limit values for this Installation and how they are to be monitored and calculated. Section 4.2.3 and the Table on page 90 of the Permit Determination Document provide details of guideline values and how these were assessed by SEPA.

The following are further questions that we wish to requests answers to in addition to any raised in the aforementioned bullet points.

a) Has dioxin sampling of soils been taken since commissioning. Yes. Was any soil samples taken prior to commissioning to act as a baseline for monitoring.

The PPC Permit required sampling of soils (for metals, dioxins and furans) at 4 locations around the site prior to commencement of waste burning operations. These samples were taken at the start of commissioning in 2009 and again in early 2010 – results are available on the Public Register at our East Kilbride Office. A further set of samples has been carried out within the last few weeks – results will be placed on the Public Register when they become available.

Soil sampling – following commissioning eight samples are to be taken per year for the first two years of operation, thereafter four samples per year. Air sampling – the PPC Permit requires monthly spot samples of dioxins and furans to BS EN 1948:1997 under normal operating conditions during first year of operation.

b) Can details of the air quality prior to the application and then monthly since the commissioning commenced in October 2009 be provided.

The air quality modelling studies (carried out as part of the original PPC Application) and monthly ambient air quality monitoring for NO_x and SO_x, at 4 locations around the site, are available on the Public Register at our East Kilbride Office.

c) How many SEPA staff are appointed to monitor this plant. What is the weekly monthly resource allocated to the monitoring of the plant and what percentage of this work load is it to their other work.

This site is regulated by a Lead Officer (Specialist) from our Process Engineering Unit with assistance from other Process Engineering Unit Specialists and Officers from the Local Dumfries & Galloway Team as necessary. Other SEPA staff provide advice on scientific, policy, access to information and legal matters as they arise. The Lead Officer reports to SEPA through the Process Engineering Unit Manager.

At present the Lead Officer's workload is largely taken up with regulating this site.

The SEPA East Kilbride Public Register can be contacted at:

5 Redwood Crescent
Peel Park
EAST KILBRIDE
G74 5PP
Tel: 01355 574200
Fax: 01355 574688
Email: RegistryEastKilbride@sepa.org.uk

If you are not satisfied with our response, you have up until 28 September 2010 to request a formal review from SEPA at:

Access to Information
SEPA Corporate Office
Erskine Court
Castle Business Park
STIRLING
FK9 4TR
Email: foi@sepa.org.uk

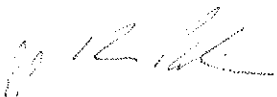
If you are still not satisfied, you can appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS
Telephone: 01334 464610
Fax: 01334 464611
e-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Your unique reference number is F0161433. Please quote this in any future contact with us about your request.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact me.

Yours sincerely



Cara Everitt
Access to Information Co-ordinator