

Our Ref: F0158914

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

If telephoning ask for:
Kathryn Farvolden

11 June 2010

Dear Mr Freel

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Thank you for your recent letter, received by us on 7 June 2010, in which you asked for the following information:

DARGAVEL BATCH GASIFICATION PLANT: DUMFRIES

I write seeking information held by SEPA concerning the above plants operation since it was commissioned and went into service. I would be obliged if you could provide our community council with the following information.

- 1. Details of any reportable incidents concerning the operation of this plant in relation to all emissions and waste management since its commissioning.*
- 2. Details of any breaches of its operating licence for any reason.*
- 3. How often is the plant monitored by SEPA and what areas does it monitor.*
- 4. What controls are in place for monitoring the plant, does SEPA receive a weekly/ monthly report on specific areas. Can you define these areas?*
- 5. How is trade effluent monitored?*
- 6. What checks are done on groundwater to establish no direct or indirect release from the site?*
- 7. What checks are done on incoming waste.*
- 8. How many complaints have been recorded by the site or by SEPA*
- 9. What are the safe permitted levels for dioxins for this plant and what are the national acceptable limits.*
- 10. What figures are available showing air quality before and after installation of this plant.*

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 responses below:

- 1. This Installation was Permitted in May 2009 and began commissioning in October that year. There followed an extended outage between December 2009 and March 2010. The plant is still under the commissioning phase. Since commissioning recommenced in March 2010 (till the end of May 2010) there have been 22 breaches of the Secondary Combustion Chamber oxygen limit, 13*



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

breaches of the Secondary Combustion Chamber temperature limit, 3 activations of the by-pass stack, 1 breach of the VOC emission limit, 2 breaches of the CO emission limit and 6 noise complaints.

2. During the commissioning phase, the site has breached PPC Permit Conditions relating to incident reporting, temperature and oxygen limits, reporting of monitored emissions (non-reporting, late reporting, insufficient information, emission limit breaches of CO, NOx, VOCs, NH3), and management control over waste handling.

3. To assess compliance with the conditions of the PPC Permit - SEPA carry out routine (announced and unannounced) site inspections, assess data returns, conduct site audits and may also undertake compliance check monitoring of emissions at any time. During this commissioning phase, typically there is compliance monitoring work carried out by SEPA on a monthly basis.

4. A detailed assessment of the site control, monitoring and interlock systems can be found in the attached link to the PPC Permit and the Permit Determination Decision Document.

http://www.sepa.org.uk/air/process_industry_regulation/pollution_prevention_control/public_participation_directive/ppd_consultations/closed/a1022412_14may09.aspx

The PPC Permit requires routine monitoring of incoming waste, emissions to air, emissions to water and analysis of the ash residue. There are also daily visual, noise and odour assessments carried out by on-site staff and by SEPA Officers during inspection.

The range of activities, tests and required reports during the commissioning phase are described in Section 3.9.4 of the PPC Permit (see above link) - these reports arrive regularly as they are completed. In addition to incident reports (as they occur), SEPA receive routine quarterly environmental monitoring reports (on emissions to air, water and ash residues) plus monthly commissioning update reports.

5. There are no direct discharges of process effluent to sewer at this Installation. Process effluent (arising from water cooling tower discharges, boiler blow down and cleaning of plant) is collected on-site then removed by vacuum tanker for off-site disposal.

6. This site has an impermeable surface to prevent emissions to groundwater. There are no routes for direct discharge to groundwater from the PPC activities on-site. The site is served by a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) which takes surface water run-off - this system would also provide a measure of containment / treatment for any indirect releases of process effluent. Surface water exiting the SUDS system is monitored by both the Operator (on a continuous and weekly basis) and SEPA. PPC Permit Condition 4.5.9 requires annual inspection of the systems which protect groundwater.

7. The PPC Permit requires appropriate systems and procedures to be in place to check waste types and ensure an appropriate calorific value of the waste (or waste mix) to be incinerated for each batch. Waste arriving on-site is weighed and visually checked against the attached waste consignment / delivery note descriptions, EWC number and the permitted waste types specified within the PPC Permit. Waste is deposited and stored within the main process building for logging and stock control. SEPA also carry out routine audits of the waste checking system.

8. SEPA and the Operator have received several noise complaints from a single dwelling. The source of the noise has been identified and a noise abatement plan is expected shortly.

9. Information related to dioxin emission limit values to air can be found in the above link to the Permit Determination Decision Document and in Annexes 1 & 3 to the PPC Permit. There is also a requirement for dioxin sampling of soils contained within Table 3.2 of the Permit.

10. The Application documentation provided information on the local air quality prior to construction of the site. Following commissioning, the PPC Permit requires monthly averages of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen to be reported as an annual mean from 4 locations plus an assessment of metal elements subject to Air Quality Standards.

If you are not satisfied with our response, you have up until 5 August 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 F0158914. 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



Kathryn Farvolden
Access to Information Co-ordinator