

## Bankwood Lane Industrial Estate Update

### Introduction

The purpose of this briefing note is to provide an update regarding reported amenity incidents from companies on Bankwood Lane Industrial Estate, Rossington.

### Current Situation

The Environment Agency (EA) received 120 individual complaints via our Incident Communication Service (ICS) regarding odour, dust and flies, relating to the Bankwood Lane Industrial Estate from mid-June to early October. Nearly all the complaints related to odour, with some relating to dust and 10 complaints in mid-June relating to flies. We regulate a number of sites on the industrial estate, which have environmental permits. Two of the most significant sites are Morris Metals and Eco-Power.

#### **Morris & Co (Handlers) Ltd (Morris Metals)**

Morris Metals are permitted to operate a Metal Recycling site to accept up to 75,000 tonnes of waste metal each year. Their main business at Bankwood Lane is the recovery of metal from incinerator bottom ash. They acknowledge that controlling dust is their biggest environmental challenge. In all our recent inspections of the site, Morris did appear to have all the relevant procedures for dust control in place and were compliant with their permit conditions. They have been investing heavily in dust control equipment and we plan to carry out a further audit this autumn, when that equipment is installed.

#### **Eco-Power Environmental Ltd (Eco-Power)**

Eco-Power are permitted to operate a Material Recycling Treatment site, accepting no more than 200,000 tonnes of waste onto site each year.

We have carried out audits in February, May and September this year and have found that Eco-Power have been in breach of their permit conditions on all three occasions. They made improvements from February to May, but were still not in compliance with their permit at that time. They did however comply with the conditions of the Enforcement Notice, which we served on them in June. In September we audited their Fire Prevention Plan and found that the waste piles exceeded the maximum allowed and the waste piles did not have sufficient fire breaks between them. We served another Enforcement Notice on Eco-Power to comply with their Fire Prevention Plan by the end of November.

### What we are doing

It is the Operators' responsibility to ensure they are compliant with their environmental permit. We will continue to monitor and assess their performance against their environmental permits.

The EA is processing a permit variation application from Morris, who want to increase the tonnage of waste they process on site. We received the application in September and are considering it as a Site of High Public Interest. This will require extended public consultation, where we will invite the public to comment on the application. Details of how to do this will be published shortly on our website.

Eco-Power also applied to vary their permit to expand their operations and to increase the tonnage of waste they process. In August we informed Eco-Power that we had refused their application. The refusal

notice and the decision document outlining our reasons for the refusal are published on our website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/environmental-permitting-waste-installations-and-radioactive-substances-activity-notices-of-applications-made#refusals>

## Odour monitoring

We have been undertaking odour monitoring around Rossington in collaboration with Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (DMBC) and environmental consultants from Taylor-Wimpey. We've carried out three odour monitoring exercises, involving all three parties to identify the impact and source of odour in Rossington. Officers stood at ten different locations, both upwind and downwind of the Bankwood Lane Industrial Estate and recorded what they smelled. They used a standard 0 to 6 intensity scale, with 0 being no odour, to 6 being an offensive smell. On all three occasions the worst smell officers detected was a level 3, distinct smell, but they weren't able to categorically identify the source. We know residents have reported odours much worse than these findings and we're setting up an odour response team, from DMBC and the EA to respond if and when we get a big spike in odour reports.

## Reporting of Incidents

We would encourage that reports of incidents are first made directly to Morris Metals and Eco-Power using the sites contact details below. This has the benefit of allowing the companies to be made aware of and investigate incidents without delay.

When we receive a report from members of the public to our incident hotline number, we always use the information supplied to us to gain a better understanding of the problems and potential source. However, responding individually to all requests for feedback has become a significant draw on our resource, which we would preferably use to focus on our regulatory actions. We will now look to use newsletters to provide the public with regular updates.

The Environment Agency Incident Hotline (0800 807060) is available 24/7 for residents to call should any further issues relating to the sites occur.

Morris Metals: [info@morrismetal.com](mailto:info@morrismetal.com)

Eco-Power: [lee.j@ecope.co.uk](mailto:lee.j@ecope.co.uk)