

Bankwood Lane Industrial Estate Update

Introduction

The purpose of this newsletter 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 incident reports via our Incident Communication Service (ICS) regarding odour, dust and noise, relating to the Bankwood Lane Industrial Estate from October 2020 to mid-May 2021. Nearly all the complaints related to odour, with a small number relating to dust and noise. 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 February 2021 we identified a minor breach of their permit, when waste was seen to be above the height of the perimeter fence. Morris received a warning for this.

In April 2021 their sister site at Balby had a fire and as a result of that some waste was re-directed to the Bankwood Lane site. We carried out an audit of the Bankwood Lane site in the week following the fire and found that Morris Metals were having some problems managing the additional waste. The waste types and quantities were within their permitted limits, but they were struggling to contain dust and odours. We received a number of incident reports from the public at the end of April and we gave Morris Metals a warning for the dust release, which they responded to by putting in additional controls to prevent further problems.

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.

In September 2020 we audited Eco-Power's Fire Prevention Plan (FPP) and found that the waste piles exceeded the maximum allowed and the waste piles did not have sufficient fire breaks between them. We issued an Enforcement Notice on Eco-Power to comply with their FPP by the end of November 2020. An inspection at the end of November revealed that Eco-Power had not complied with the terms of the notice, but had improved to the point where they were compliant with a revised FPP.

A further inspection in December showed that they were still in compliance, but an inspection in February 2021 revealed that the site had slipped back, as we identified 4 minor breaches of their permit. We wrote to Eco-Power asking them to set out the steps they intended to take, if they wanted to continue to hold their environmental permit. We are yet to receive their response. We undertook a further inspection in April 2021 and found waste volumes were reduced, but the rail loading operation was causing some odour and

littering at the rear of the site. Eco-Power have put in additional controls in this area and have applied for a permit variation, which will allow us to impose further control measures on this operation. The application will go out to consultation shortly.

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.

We said in the last newsletter that we were 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 2020, but we did not begin determining the variation due to lack of information provided. Morris Metals re-applied for the variation in March 2021. If this application is duly made, it will go out for 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.

Odour monitoring

We reported in our last newsletter the results of the odour monitoring we undertook in 2020, around Rossington, in collaboration with Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (DMBC) and environmental consultants from Taylor-Wimpey. In 2021 we established an odour response team, from DMBC and the EA to respond if and when we got a big spike in odour reports. In April 2021, we did have a period when odour reports increased and we undertook further odour monitoring around Rossington. A distinct 'lemon' odour was noted outside Morris's site, which was consistent with an odour suppressant Morris's were using. We also noted a distinct to strong waste odour at the back of Eco-Power, which coincided with their rail loading operation, discussed above.

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

Eco-Power: lee.j@ecope.co.uk