

Our ref: SE 51\CL-2000-3

Your ref:

Date: 12 January 2000

Janet Dean
Executive Director
Directorate of Environment, Health & Housing
Doncaster MBC
P.O. Box 257, The Council House
College Road
Doncaster, DN1 1RN

Dear Ms. Dean

CLOSED DONCASTER MBC LANDFILL, SKELBROOKE

Further to my recent telephone conversation with Terry Maloney, Waste Management Officer, Doncaster MBC, I am writing to you regarding the possibility that this site (Doncaster Closed Landfill Reference No. 61, located at NGR SE 513 113) is causing pollution of controlled waters.

I understand that the landfill was filled by Doncaster council under a resolution which has now been surrendered. The landfill is within the Magnesian Limestone which is designated as a Major Aquifer under the Environment Agency's 1998 "*Policy and Practice for the Protection of Groundwater*". The aquifer is highly permeable due to the presence of significant fracturing, and has the potential to support large groundwater abstractions as well as providing baseflow to surface waters. Groundwater within the Magnesian Limestone is very sensitive to pollution due to the relatively fast travel times and low attenuating capacity of the aquifer.

This landfill had a history of high groundwater levels and since closure, the water table is likely to have risen above the base of the waste mass. The Skelbrooke Spring lies approximately 350 metres to the north of the landfill; samples taken from this location by the Agency and predecessor bodies have found elevated levels of ammoniacal nitrogen and chloride which are indicative of pollution by landfill leachate.

The new Contaminated Land Regulations 1999 are likely to be implemented under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in the near future and are intended to ensure that contaminated land is cleaned up to a standard that is appropriate to its use. The identification of contaminated land is based on the presence of a source (landfilled waste), pathway (Magnesian Limestone) and target (groundwater beneath the landfill and the Skelbrooke Spring) and so this site appears likely to be identified under these regulations.

Cont/d..

Environment Agency
Phoenix House, Global Avenue, Leeds, LS11 8PG
Tel: 0113 244 0191 Fax: 0113 213 4609

Leachate from your site appears to have polluted a large volume of groundwater and this is impacting the Skelbrooke Spring; the Agency is keen to prevent further pollution and obtain some clean up for the aquifer that is already contaminated.

As a first step additional investigation is necessary to fully characterise this site and the current extent of groundwater contamination, and I would be grateful if you could contact the Agency to discuss how Doncaster MBC intend to address this issue. I would be happy to attend a meeting to progress this matter.

Yours sincerely

DR. HUGH POTTER
Contaminant Hydrogeologist

Direct dial 0113 2134817
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cc David Walmsley, Environment Planning, Environment Agency
Francis Lowe, Environmental Protection, Environment Agency