PAG Consultancy

Scarcewater Tip – Non technical summary

Background

China clay has been extracted from the St Austell area of Cornwall for approaching 200 years, and the deposit of waste materials from these operations has had a dramatic visual impact upon the local landscape. IMERYS Minerals have worked with the Mineral Planning Authority, Natural England, and other stakeholders (*e.g.* Environment Agency, Cornwall County Council) to develop a restoration plan which is designed to return the closed tips to grassland, heathland and mixed deciduous native woodland.

In order to facilitate, and maximise, the restoration potential of each closed mineral tip the importation of waste materials has successfully been shown to generate an appropriate soil profile (*i.e.* appropriate soil chemical, physical and biological conditions) on the inert impoverished soil mineral forming materials of the clay waste. The use of imported waste, and blending with on-site mineral materials, to create appropriate soil profiles for successful and sustainable tip restoration is viewed by IMERYS, Cornwall County Council and the local Environment Team of the Environment Agency as good environmental practice for; conservation, mining tip restoration, grassland, heathland and woodland habitat creation, mining waste sediment control and a clever, sensible and economically efficient way to deliver mineral planning restoration conditions, especially considering there is insufficient suitable and available soils for direct importation to Scarcewater Tip in the Cornwall mining area.

Summary of Regulated Facility/Activity

- The facility involves the importation, storage, blending, or direct landspreading, of wastes listed in the permit with on-site mineral soil forming materials for the ecological improvement of land through creation of appropriate soil profiles to meet the mineral planning restoration conditions.
- Blending, landspreading and incorporation of imported wastes to the on-site soil mineral forming materials will be conducted using tracked and wheeled plant with appropriate attachments *e.g.* tracked excavators with buckets and/or rake attachments, agricultural tractors with trailer/plough/soil cultivators/roller.
- The resulting blends of imported waste, with on-site mineral soil forming material, will be used for land treatment on the mineral waste tip resulting in ecological improvement, namely creation of grassland, heathland or woodland habitats.
- All wastes, prior to being accepted under the permit, will have representative samples of the material routinely analysed, at an appropriate laboratory, for determination of its chemical, physical and biological properties. This analysis will be used to provide evidence for compliance with the IMERYS waste acceptance criteria along with matching the required specifications for soil formation and habitat creation.
- The creation of the appropriate soil profile forming materials, from imported waste and on-site mineral soil forming materials, will follow soil specifications

developed by IMERYS Minerals in line with the requirements of the mineral planning restoration conditions. These, in house developed soil specifications reflect the quality parameters laid down in public available standards issued by the British Standards Institute namely BS3882:2015 and BS8601:2013.

- Site operations will be covered under the IMERYS Minerals extensive Environmental Management System, in accordance with requirements of the Environmental Permitting Regulations and regulated by the Environment Agency, which is also audited for compliance under IMERYS Minerals Limited ISO14001:2015 certification.