

Poplars Landfill and Anaerobic Digestion Facility, Cannock – January 2020 update

Introduction

This is the second in a series of updates, which will provide residents with the latest information about our regulation of the Poplars Landfill site in Cannock.

We are sorry to hear that residents are experiencing problems with odour in the local area. Please be assured that we are working constantly with the operator, Biffa Waste Services Ltd, to resolve these issues.

Keeping you up to date on our progress is very important to us and we hope our updates will answer many of your questions. Thank you for taking the time to read this update.

Background

We regulate the Environmental Permit held by Biffa Waste Services Ltd for Poplars Landfill Site and Anaerobic Digestion Facility. The permit contains conditions relating to site operations, which includes the waste types allowed, the handling of them and any relevant emissions standards and monitoring requirements.

Latest news

Biffa Waste Services Ltd continue to make progress with the action plan we have seen and agreed.

In the past few months, we have increased the frequency of our site inspections, attended progress review meetings and undertaken gas management audits. This is to ensure that appropriate measures for odour nuisance control are being used and that the site are continually reviewing and seeking additional measures that can be taken.

Since the installation of the additional wells in December 2019, gas capture has increased on site. Additional measures are still needed to further improve gas capture on the landfill to address odour.

A major part of this is the fitting of a plastic geo-membrane to cover the slopes of the current tipping face, to improve the seal of the site. This work has commenced and is intended to be completed in early February, although this work is weather dependant. Our specialist officers are continuing to visit the site regularly to make sure Biffa are following the agreed plan and that the proposed works are being carried out.

There was a spillage from one of the tanks in the Anaerobic Digestion facility late on Monday 13 January, which was all contained within the tanks bund. This may have resulted in an off-site odour, which would



have smelt differently to landfill gas. Our officers were on site quickly and can confirm that the spillage has now been cleaned up. We are currently carrying out a full investigation into the cause of this incident.

Our engagement

To help our engagement with local residents, we will continue to provide updates via our newsletter. We have also created an online information page about this site, which people can access for updates. The link to this page is <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/poplars-cannock-information-page>

If you would like to receive our newsletter, please email Engagement_WestMids@environment-agency.gov.uk and we will add you to our mailing list. You can follow us on twitter too at @EnvAgencyMids #PoplarsCannock as we will be tweeting about the work we are doing.

We are also members of the Poplars liaison group arranged by Biffa Waste Services Ltd.

Your odour reports

We want to hear from you if you have an environmental incident or concern to report, including any odour concerns.

To do this, call our free 24 hour incident hotline on:

0800 80 70 60

Please do not try to contact our officers directly - we cannot guarantee that your call will be logged and dealt with in a timely manner unless it is made through the incident hotline.

When reporting odour incidents to us, we will ask you to assess the strength of the odour on a scale of 0 to 6. To help with your assessment, an explanation of this scale is as follows:

- 0 – No odour
- 1 – Very faint odour (need to inhale into the wind to smell anything)
- 2 – Faint odour (you can detect an odour when you inhale normally)
- 3 – Distinct odour (there is clearly an odour in the air as you leave your car or enter the area)
- 4 – Strong odour (a bearable odour but strong, you could stay in the area for some time)
- 5 – Very strong odour (unpleasantly strong, you will want to leave the area quickly)
- 6 – Extremely strong odour (likely to cause nausea and a strong need to remove yourself from the odour immediately)

Our feedback to you

Often you will ask us for feedback following your report. We will endeavour to report back directly where we can, but this may not always be possible. We recognise the importance of providing feedback and will do this through the Poplars liaison group and updates such as this one.

Next update

We will provide our next update in February 2020. If you would like to provide feedback on how useful you found this update please email Engagement_WestMids@environment-agency.gov.uk

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88