

## Sarval Rendering Plant - Citizen space (Update for February 2023)

We are sorry to hear that residents have experienced problems with malodour from this site. Please be assured we are working with the operator and our partners to resolve these issues. We have created this page in response to the increase in incident reports over the Summer of 2022 and we aim to keep residents updated on our regulation of the site. This page will be updated monthly.

### Site background

Sarval (Hartshill) Limited operate the animal by-product rendering plant on Mancetter Road in Hartshill. This was formerly known as De Mulder & Sons Limited. The company take animal by-products from the meat processing industry and produce processed animal proteins for pet food products and high-grade fats such as tallow to be made into biofuel. The rendering process generates odorous exhaust gases that need to be abated to prevent nuisance.

The Environment Agency (EA) regulates this site under an Environment Permit, which was issued in 2006. This permit controls emissions from the site into the environment, it includes maintenance, management, and amenity conditions.

A copy of the Environmental Permit for the site can be viewed *here*, however please be aware that this information is not immediately available with a licence for use. Please contact us if you want to know if, and under what conditions, we would be able to license you.

### Latest update (to 28 February 2023)

No odour complaints were received by the Environment Agency in February 2023 that may have been attributable to the operation of the plant.

A Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) was issued following the inspection of the facility on 27 January 2023. This inspection focussed on the operation of the facility as a whole and the follow up of actions from inspections over the last year rather than the specific operation of the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP).

There were no offensive odours identified outside of the site boundary at the time of the inspection.

Some recent progress with installations relating to the ETP were noted, regarding the installation of an alternative cooling system for Tank 5 using a heat exchanger. This is likely to be commissioned by the end of March 2023. Installation of an aeration system in Tank 4 has been progressed and this tank can be used whilst tank 5 is emptied and inspected during March. These works should help to improve the capacity of the treatment system and its operation during hot weather conditions.

Our formal investigation of the incident in August is continuing. Following the audit of the Effluent Treatment Plant (EPT) on 22 November 2022 and subsequent correspondence we have issued a CAR form to the Company on 27 February 2023. This is now within the 28-day appeal period.

A Company liaison meeting was held on Friday 3 February which was attended by Marcus Jones MP and Parish, Ward & County Councillors, UKHSA and the Environment Agency. The Company provided an update regarding the current situation and their investment in the effluent treatment plant. This included the installation of the heat exchangers and improved aeration and an additional raw material storage tank. The Company also confirmed that they were in discussion with Severn Trent Water Ltd to review the terms of their trade effluent agreement to discharge higher strength effluent from the treatment plant to the foul sewer. The health report into impacts from the incident in August was shared at the meeting. A summary of this report is in the section below.

#### Forward look;

We will continue to carry out odour checks on an ad-hoc basis or following reports of any concerns. We will follow up on the actions required to improve the operation of the ETP. We will continue to regularly inspect the facility and will require the operator to take actions where necessary to ensure compliance with the permit.

We understand that reporting incidents is time consuming and frustrating, however the information that you provide is invaluable for us to understand the impact that the plant is having on the community and to be able to investigate and take action. Please continue to report incidents to us using our hotline number 0800 807060.

#### Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

**We have produced a FAQ document for the site, which you can read [here](#). This document will be added to and updated if we received further queries that are not already included. Please read through this page and refer to this FAQ document in the first instance if you have any questions.**

For any concerns regarding the operational life of the site, hours of operation and traffic movements to and from the site, please contact Warwickshire County Council at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportaproblem>

#### Odour reports about the site

We have received a total of 145 odour notifications between 1 January 2022 and 28 February 2023. Incident reports have remained low since September 2022.

In February 2023 we received 0 reports regarding odours from the site.

#### Update on health

A report titled 'Investigation into the potential health impact of odour release in Hartshill in August 2022' has now been published by UKHSA and Warwickshire County Council.

Executive summary;

A total of 95 complaints were received from local residents relating to the release of odours from the rendering plant in Hartshill in August 2022. The odour release had a significant

impact on local residents' quality of life and some complainants reported experiencing symptoms which they attributed to the odours.

This investigation has found that the odour release did not lead to any serious health problems in the local population. There is no evidence that local residents are at increased risk of long-term health problems. However, if general practitioners identify patients who either have ongoing or develop new symptoms related to the August 2022 odour release, they should contact the Health Protection Team.

Sarval (Hartshill) Ltd should continue to implement all practicable measures to ensure that odour concentrations in the local area are kept as low as possible, to reduce the likelihood of further incidents impacting local residents. In the event of further odour release from the rendering plant, Sarval (Hartshill) Ltd should consider installing surveillance equipment to determine the identity of the chemical(s) causing the odour and monitor concentrations. Future complaints regarding odour release should initially be made to the Environment Agency.

If anyone would like to contact UKHSA regarding the report or incident, please email [wmehpu@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:wmehpu@ukhsa.gov.uk) quoting reference number 392152.

### **Report an incident**

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.