

Walleys Quarry Landfill Site

19 August 2021

We have developed this weekly update to help keep the community of Newcastle under Lyme and wider area up to date with developments around our regulation of Walleys Quarry landfill.

We don't want the community to continue to live with the distress caused by landfill gas being released from the operations at Walleys Quarry landfill. We are challenging Walleys Quarry Ltd (formerly Red Industries RM Ltd) every step of the way to operate in line with their permits.

News in brief

- **Further capping work**

Walleys Quarry Ltd were due to start work on covering the steep flanks of the landfill in mid-July with a product called Posi-Shell. They have informed us this material has not yet arrived from the USA, anticipating that it will arrive late August.

As well as an updated timeframe for the work, we have required Walleys Quarry Limited to make plans for an alternative capping material, should there be further delays of the Posi-Shell, and this capping work to be complete by the end of September. Capping work is an urgent action necessary to reduce the escape of landfill gas and we have demanded the operator to deliver a revised plan for these crucial works.

Monitoring Sulphur Dioxide

We've been asked about the levels of sulphur dioxide, coming from the operations at Walleys Quarry Landfill Site. Sulphur dioxide is present in the atmosphere due to natural and man-made sources including burning fossil fuels such as coal. Three of our monitoring stations are already monitoring for this gas. This data is included in our monthly report and has been shared with Public Health England for their consideration in their Health Risk Assessment.

In this case sulphur dioxide is released when the landfill gas is burnt in the landfill gas engines to produce electricity or when the flare is operated. The levels that we've monitored so far are below the UK Air Quality Standards and are not a cause for concern.

Monitoring BTEX Chemicals

We have also provided all the monitoring data for the BTEX group of chemicals so far to Public Health England and they will include this in their monthly health risk assessment as well. The levels that we've monitored are low.

- **Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council abatement notice**

Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council have served Walleys Quarry Limited with an abatement notice.

This step will not change the actions that we are requiring the company to take to resolve the problem with landfill gas escaping from the site or our efforts to do the best we can with the powers we have to bring the operator into compliance.

The work we are requiring the operator to do is making a difference and is producing improvements that will significantly reduce the amount of landfill gas escaping from the site and reduce odour in the long-term.

We have instructed Walleys Quarry Ltd to invest in a number of complex and costly engineering solutions in a very short-period of time. We are continually assessing the effectiveness of each set of actions, as well as giving them new actions to complete around gas management. There is still a long way to go, improvements will continue but we will persist with our action to make sure the operator effectively manages their operations.

- **Online reporting form available**

Many of you asked for an online form to make it easier to report landfill gas odour from Walleys Quarry Landfill. An [online reporting form](#) is now available (see also the 'Contact us' part of this website). Like phoning us, you will receive a reference number, but as this is a new process, it may take a few days for the reference number to come through.

- **Transcript and recording available from virtual engagement event**

The written transcript and recording from the second multi-agency virtual engagement session held on Tuesday 3 August is now available. [Read the transcript](#), [hear the recording](#).

- **Mental wellbeing**

If you would like to talk to someone about any mental wellbeing issues, there are several sources of help on [Staffordshire Council's website](#). Anyone experiencing significant mental health issues should see their GP for a referral to primary care mental health services.

- **Latest hydrogen sulphide levels**

For the week 9 to 15 August, hydrogen sulphide levels were below the World Health Organisation's (WHO) 24-hour average health guideline level to protect against short-term health effects but were above the WHO 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level between 0.3% and 7% of the week. During this week we received 622 reports from local people.

Air Quality in the last week

We are committed to sharing with you the outcome of our monthly monitoring. However, we realise local people want to see more frequent information about recorded hydrogen sulphide levels. We will seek to bring you indicative information every week in this update.

This data will be compared against the World Health Organisation's 24-hour average health guideline level. Should the World Health Organisation's 24-hour average health guideline level be exceeded, Public Health England will be immediately informed as short-term health effects may be experienced by the public such as irritation to the eyes, nose and throat. Individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions may be more susceptible to these effects.

The data will also be compared to the World Health Organisation's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level, i.e. above which there are likely to be complaints about odour annoyance.

The Environment Agency conducts its monitoring and data handling using approved standards and methodologies. As a result, this weekly data is based on raw data that has not yet been subjected to quality assurance checking or calibration. As a result, this data may change significantly once the quality assurance check and calibration has been carried out.

For the week 9 to 15 August, hydrogen sulphide levels were below the WHO 24-hour average health guideline level to protect against short-term health effects but were above the World Health Organisation's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level for between 0.3% and 7% of the week (although final information is still being collated).

Data from our monitoring stations for the percentage of the week hydrogen sulphide levels were above the World Health Organisation's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level:

- MMF1 - Silverdale Cemetery = 0.3%
- MMF2 - Silverdale Road = 7%
- MMF6 - Newcastle-under-Lyme Fire Station = 3%
- MMF9 - Galingale View = 6%

We are updating the information on this webpage every week. To receive notifications, email your contact details to: Engagement_WestMids@environment-agency.gov.uk and we will add you to our mailing list.

See [Staffordshire County Council website](#) for information on public health impacts of odours in the Silverdale and wider Newcastle under Lyme area.

Walleys Quarry website: <https://walleysquarry.co.uk/>