

# News Release

14 October 2021

## Environment Agency publishes plan to reduce hydrogen sulphide emissions at Walleys Quarry

- **The plan outlines measures to reduce hydrogen sulphide emissions from Walleys Quarry landfill, operated by Walleys Quarry Ltd**
- **This plan builds on the successful measures the Environment Agency have already required Walleys Quarry Ltd to carry out**
- **Hydrogen sulphide levels from the landfill are reducing, but Environment Agency recognises Walleys Quarry Ltd needs to take further action**

The Environment Agency has published its plan to reduce hydrogen sulphide emissions at Walleys Quarry; a landfill operated by Walleys Quarry Ltd.

The Environment Agency has re-evaluated its regulatory approach following the outcome of the Judicial Review, taking into account the impact of the measures that it has already required Walleys Quarry Ltd to undertake. This plan builds on this extensive regulatory action taken to date and outlines the latest measures designed and applied by the Environment Agency, which Walleys Quarry Ltd is required to implement in the coming months to further improve control of hydrogen sulphide emissions.

The measures the Environment Agency has already required Walleys Quarry Ltd to implement are successfully reducing levels of hydrogen sulphide emissions from the landfill. Since the recorded peak in those emissions in early March 2021, monitoring shows a significant reduction. The latest UKHSA (formerly PHE) monthly assessment of local air quality, released this week,<sup>1</sup> demonstrates that hydrogen sulphide levels '*at three of the monitoring sites concentrations are now below the long-term (lifetime) health-based guidance value*'<sup>2</sup>.

Whilst this is very positive, there is more to do and the Environment Agency is focussed on ensuring WQL achieves further and sustained reduction in hydrogen sulphide emissions. This plan outlines the necessary further steps to achieve the outcomes advised by UKHSA.

The plan reflects the declaration made in Judicial Review proceedings by Mr Justice Fordham. The judgment did not find a present breach of the Environment Agency's legal obligations, but identified that more action was needed.

The Environment Agency requires Walleys Quarry Ltd to act in three key areas to manage landfill gas and hydrogen sulphide emissions outside the site boundary: *contain* the gas, *capture* the gas, *destroy* the gas. Environment Agency actions have and will continue to focus these measures aimed at controlling hydrogen sulphide.

Walleys Quarry Ltd is responsible for the hydrogen sulphide emissions escaping from its site. Publication of the plan represents the Environment Agency's continuing work to rigorously require the operator to resolve the issue of unacceptable levels of those emissions.

<sup>1</sup> Report shows monitoring data March – August 2021

<sup>2</sup> Credit, UKHSA latest monitoring report, see link [here](#)

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Along with the substantive action the Environment Agency has already required Walleys Quarry Ltd to take, additional action includes:

- Further operational measures to contain, capture and destroy the hydrogen sulphide
- Measures for Walleys Quarry Ltd to improve analysis and modelling of the hydrogen sulphide on site and how it is impacted by changes in atmosphere. This will help make sure the gas management system is effective in destroying hydrogen sulphide in the short and long term.
- Continuation of measures to assure what comes onto the site ensuring new gypsum bearing materials are not included.

Clare Dinnis, Environment Agency Area Director said:

“This is a horrible situation for the local community and we do not underestimate how difficult it is to live with the hydrogen sulphide being released from Walleys Quarry.

“We can see that the measures we’ve required Walleys Quarry Ltd to take are working, with monitoring showing falling levels of hydrogen sulphide escaping from the site. Whilst this is good news, there is more work to be done to reduce these levels further and keep them low in the long term. That is why our highest priority is requiring the operator, Walleys Quarry Ltd, to take further action.

“We are committed to tackling the problems at Walleys Quarry to improve the situation, with the timescales in the judgment firmly in mind.”

**Ends**

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