

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 3 November 2022

The Environment Agency has prepared this weekly update to help the community of Newcastle-under-Lyme and the wider area keep informed about developments concerning its regulation of Walleys Quarry Landfill.

Walleys Quarry Ltd is the operator of the landfill site and it alone is responsible for the hydrogen sulphide emissions escaping from the site.

The Environment Agency is the environmental regulator. We require Walleys Quarry Ltd to meet its environmental obligations and resolve the ongoing odour issues at the landfill as quickly as possible.

News in brief – 3 November 2022

Regulatory activity

We continue to actively regulate and assess Walleys Quarry Ltd's compliance with its environmental permit by reviewing data and conducting inspections. During the most recent announced inspection on 26 October 2022, officers observed ongoing work to cover the geomembrane cap with soils.

Data we have received indicates increased gas flow of improved quality to the gas utilisation plant (GUP). The extraction rate recorded on 28 October 2022 was 3180 m³/hr. These improvements are largely as a result of completion of upgrades to gas collection infrastructure.

The H₂S levels at the GUP also continue to gradually reduce. A level of 1000 ppm was recorded on 21 October and 24 October 2022. There is an overall trend of reducing H₂S levels for the majority of gas wells across the site, and from the horizontal gas wells in the operational areas. The levels are now approaching those recorded in 2019.

Facebook Group

Every month we provide a transcript of the Facebook Q&A session here on Citizen Space, so those of you that are not members can access the information. You can read the transcript from the October Facebook Q&A [here](#).

The next designated Facebook Q&A questions thread will open on Facebook on Monday 7 November 2022 at 9am. It will remain open until 5pm on Friday 11 November 2022.

If you are not able to join the Facebook group you can email your question to enquiries_westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk between Monday 7 November and Friday 11 November. Please indicate you have a question for the November Walleys Quarry Facebook Q&A in the subject line.

Reporting odour

It is important that you continue to report odour to us. Reports from local people, along with our regulatory visits and monitoring from our mobile monitoring facilities help to create a picture which informs our enforcement and regulatory approach.

The easiest and quickest way to make a report is via GOV.UK at: <https://report-walleys-quarry-smell.service.gov.uk/>

If you do report odour to us via our incident hotline, please be courteous to our staff. They are working to deal with your reports as efficiently as possible.

Latest hydrogen sulphide levels

Our Ambient Air Monitoring Team continues to check air quality around Walleys Quarry landfill. It does this through a network of mobile monitoring stations (MMFs) that are positioned in communities around the site. These check for levels of hydrogen sulphide and methane, which are indicators of odour pollution.

The chart below contains a summary of the raw data collected from our ambient air mobile monitoring facilities (MMFs) in the period 24 October – 30 October 2022. They stayed the same at MMF1 and decreased at all the remaining MMFs.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H ₂ S above the WHO annoyance guideline level %	Change
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	0.0%	— on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	0.0%	▼ on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	0.0%	▼ on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	0.0%	▼ on previous week

It is important to note that this is raw data and may change slightly as results are verified.

It's important to note that there will always be short-term fluctuations in the concentrations of hydrogen sulphide leaving the site especially given the low concentrations we are monitoring. The causes can include factors such as the impact of improvement works being carried out on site and changes in the weather.

Concentrations of landfill gas emissions generally increase during periods of colder weather and still wind conditions. With less ability for the landfill gas emissions to disperse, there is a greater potential for these emissions to cause an odour nuisance in the local area. By contrast, during periods of warmer weather, the gases are naturally more diluted due to higher temperatures and rising air. This means improvements from measures implemented at Walleys Quarry Landfill to reduce odour could be less noticeable in the winter and spring.

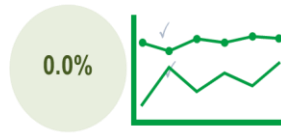
However, it is important to note that despite temporary increases, the overall trend in the levels of hydrogen sulphide concentrations in the ambient air continues to reduce.

Odour Reports

In the week 24 October – 30 October 2022 the Environment Agency received a total of 86 odour reports from local people. This is a decrease compared to the previous week. The highest number of odour reports was on Sunday 24 October when 28 complaints were received.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency
24 Oct – 30 Oct 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level
24 Oct – 30 Oct 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide Level. 24 hour World Health Organisation guideline to protect against short term health effects

Correspondence

Other than by means of the Facebook Group mentioned above, we are unable to answer questions through social media. If you have a question, you can [email](#) us.

Other sources of information

UK Health Security Agency public health messages and advice about the effects of odours from Walleys Quarry landfill are available online via Staffordshire County Council's website: [Frequently asked questions about the health effects of odours and emissions from Walleys Quarry: - Staffordshire County Council](#)

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