

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 22 December 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 – 22 December 2022

Please note there will be no weekly update next week due to festive leave arrangements. The next weekly update will be provided on Thursday 5 January 2023.

Regulatory activity

We continue to actively regulate and assess Walleys Quarry Ltd's compliance with its environmental permit. Officers carried out an unannounced site inspection on 20 December 2022.

The gas extraction rate recorded on 16 December 2022 was 2830 m³/hr, with hydrogen sulphide levels at 1580 ppm. These results are within the normal operational fluctuations we expect. The slight increases in hydrogen sulphide levels seen at the Gas Utilisation Plant (GUP) over the past two weeks are not unexpected following recent installation of the additional 7 pin wells into a zone of historic landfill gas containing elevated hydrogen sulphide. The wells capture additional hydrogen sulphide and send it for destruction at the GUP, reducing fugitive emissions.

Facebook Group

The transcript for the second part of our November Facebook Q&A video has been produced and is now available on Citizen Space for non-Facebook members. You can access it [here](#).

The next designated Questions Thread will open at 9am on 2 January 2023. It will remain open until 5pm on 6 January 2023. This is your opportunity to put questions about our regulation to Project Executives Andrew Hitchings and Jon Hall. Non-Facebook members can submit questions during this period by emailing enquiries_westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk and including 'Facebook Q&A' in the subject line.

Due to festive leave arrangements, including Bank Holidays, we will not monitor the Facebook group between 5pm on 23 December 2022 and 9am on 28 December 2022, and again between 5pm on 30 December 2022 and 9am on 3 January 2023.

We would like to thank everyone who has sent us questions in 2022 and look forward to sharing more information with you next year.

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 12 December to 18 December. They decreased at MMF1, MMF2 and MMF9, and stayed the same at MMF6.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H ₂ S above the WHO annoyance guideline level %	Change
MMF1 Cemetery	1.2%	▼ on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale Pumping Station	3.6%	▼ on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	0.0%	— on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	11.6%	▼ 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 overnight, during periods of colder weather, and in still wind conditions with clear skies. We saw these conditions occur during the last week, particularly between Wednesday 14 December and Friday 16 December where temperatures fell to below -9C. We have posted a video which provides some additional commentary about the MMF data shared over the last two weeks [here](#).

Hydrogen sulphide concentrations continue to be greatly reduced compared to when monitoring began, in both the source emission and ambient air measurements. Air quality monitoring data provides additional confidence that our ongoing regulation is ensuring the source emission of hydrogen sulphide from the landfill site continues to remain low.

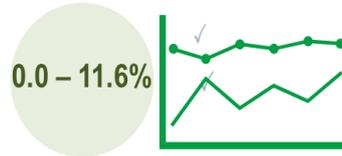
We are not focusing on the monitoring data in isolation and recognise that people may still detect odour from the site. We continue to compare daily odour incident reports with air quality data and source emissions monitoring, looking for trends and issues which may require challenging Walleys Quarry Ltd to further improve site operations and the capture of fugitive emissions.

Odour Reports

In the week 12 December to 18 December the Environment Agency received a total of 114 odour reports from local members of the public. This is a decrease compared to the previous week. The highest number of odour reports was on Thursday 15 December when 32 reports were received.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency
12 Dec - 18 Dec 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level
12 Dec - 18 Dec 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>