

## **Walleys Quarry weekly update – 22 September 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 September 2022**

### **Regulatory activity**

Officers continue to carry out inspections on a regular basis. Work to deposit covering soils on the completed permanent geomembrane cap of Phase 1 is progressing.

The hydrogen sulphide fraction of the landfill gas that is captured and used in the gas utilisation engines has decreased from 1600 parts per million (ppm) last week to 1400 ppm this week. As a comparison in July 2021, the figure was 6500 ppm. The average gas collection value remains steady, with the current rate at approximately 3250 m<sup>3</sup>/hr.

Installation of the Phase 1 permanent cap and the Phase 2 temporary cap, together with gas collection improvements have had a positive effect in containing and capturing hydrogen sulphide.

We are currently updating the public facing plan that details our past, current and future plans to contain capture and destroy emissions of hydrogen sulphide. We hope to publish the plan very shortly.

### **Facebook Group**

There has been some discussion this week with regard to a change of the Facebook group cover image. The image was changed during the period of national mourning to mark the passing of Queen

Elizabeth. This was in line with all our other social media pages and other organisations across Government. The image reverted to the original on 20 September 2022.

Please note that the next Facebook Q&A will be uploaded to the group page before the end of the month. We will be answering as many questions as possible during this September edition. However, there may be some we can't answer for legal reasons and others which may fall outside the Environment Agency's remit. We may group some together if they are on a common theme.

We will let members of the group know as soon as it is ready for viewing. For non-Facebook users, a transcript will be uploaded to the Citizen Space webpage.

### **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 September to 18 September 2022. They were the same at two locations with a slight increase at MMF2 and a reduction at MMF9.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H <sub>2</sub> S above the WHO annoyance guideline level %	Change
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	0.0%	— on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	0.30%	▲ on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	0.0%	— on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	2.99%	▼ 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 12 September to 18 September 2022 the Environment Agency received a total of 83 odour reports from local people. This is an increase compared to the previous week. The highest number of odour reports was on Saturday 17 September, when we received 31 reports.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency  
12 – 18 Sept 2022



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