

Waste management at Binn Farm

Quarterly newsletter: **October 2010 edition**



This is a summary of SEPA's regulation of waste management activities at Binn Farm, Glenfarg, between 1 August and 31 October 2010.

Composting facility (operated by TEG Environmental Ltd)

We inspect this site to ensure operations comply with the Pollution Prevention Control (PPC) Permit, which contains conditions that control all aspects of the site's environmental performance.

As part of our enforcement action taken earlier this year, we issued a Variation Notice to TEG Environmental Ltd which required the company to install a new abatement system and placed limits on how much and how long waste can be held at various parts of the site. Throughout the period for this newsletter the company has been working towards complying with the notice by installing a new abatement system at the site. The new equipment was activated over 28 and 29 October, but there will be a short commissioning period before it is fully functional.



Woodchips being delivered as part of the new bio filters at TEG Environmental Ltd site.

Disappointingly, we continued to receive a high number of odour complaints from people in the village of Abernethy, which were traced to the TEG Environmental Ltd site. This has included several instances where they have breached the odour condition of the licence. We have written to the operator about these further breaches and informed them that if the problems with odour continued, we may have to consider suspending their permit until the new abatement equipment is in place. However, as the company appeared to be on target to comply with the notice, no further enforcement action was necessary.

Following our submission of a report to the Procurator Fiscal earlier this year, there have been two pleading diets at Perth Sheriff Court in relation to the site. On both occasions the case against TEG Environmental Ltd was continued without plea (28 September and 26 October). The next pleading diet for the case is on 16 November 2010.

TEG Environmental Ltd has met with us several times to discuss an anaerobic digestion (AD) plant they propose to operate at the site. The company would need a substantial variation to their existing permit to operate such a process. We understand that an application for such a variation may be made sometime in early November. Any such application must be advertised.

Waste sorting and recycling site (operated by Binn Skips Ltd)

We inspect this site to ensure operations comply with the waste management licence. The site deals with a variety of dry recyclate materials and green wastes.

In addition to the licensed site, the operators have a number of exemptions from waste management licensing where they use waste for what are referred to as 'relevant works'. Following routine inspections to the site, we have sent two warning letters with respect to the repeated use of inappropriate material in an exempt area, and works carried out without an exemption at another part of the site. The company has assured us they have taken steps to prevent any future recurrence.

Binn Farm landfill (operated by SITA UK Ltd)

We inspect this site to ensure operations comply with the Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) Permit, which contains conditions that control all aspects of the site's environmental performance.

We are not aware of any significant problems with landfill gas odour from this site during this newsletter period. Minor non-compliances with regard to dust and litter have been raised with site management. Phase 10 construction is now well underway. A survey of the landfill surfaces was undertaken in August, as required by the permit, to identify any potential areas where gas may be escaping. We recently met with the operators who confirmed that remediation has been undertaken at the points of concern following the survey.

We understand that SITA UK Ltd have applied to the planning authority, Perth and Kinross Council, to extend the period for which the landfill site is allowed to be open. This has been requested because the landfill is not being filled as quickly due to reduced incoming waste resulting from significantly increased recycling across Scotland.



Phase 10 construction work ongoing at Binn Landfill

Proposed energy from waste plant

In March 2009 we received an application for a PPC permit from SITA UK Ltd for an energy from waste plant at Binn Farm. To date, five further information notices have been issued requiring SITA to submit further details of their plans. Due to the amount of new information available, we have re-consulted with Tayside and Fife Health Boards and Perth and Kinross and Fife Councils.

It is anticipated that all the information needed to determine the application will be submitted shortly. If we decide to issue a draft permit, there will be a further period of consultation to allow members of the public and other interested parties an opportunity to comment on the draft permit. A decision document will accompany the draft permit explaining how we have assessed the information and how the conditions contained in the permit have been drawn up. We will notify members of the public and community groups who commented on the application to let them know that the draft permit is available for consultation. The information will be placed on our website at: www.sepa.org.uk/air/process_industry_regulation/pollution_prevention_control/public_participation_directive/ppd_consultations.aspx

All comments received during the consultation will be taken into account before we make a decision on whether to issue a permit.

SITA have submitted a planning application for a gasification plant at the Binn Farm site, which would replace the Energy from Waste Plant. We will be providing Perth and Kinross Council with comments on the planning application in due course.

General issues at Binn Farm

The number of complaints made to us about odours in and around Abernethy has remained high over the last quarter. Local officers have continued to respond to these complaints both during working hours and out of hours at weekends and evenings as part of our ongoing regulatory activities.

We have written to the landowner to ask about the progress on the Sustainable Urban Drainage System which was designed to treat the surface water from the site.

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Please call our 24 hour pollution hotline to report environmental incidents: 0800 80 70 60

Please send any comments or suggestions about these updates to:
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