



The Planning Inspectorate

Your ref: WS010005

By email:

ENRMFextension@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Date: 13 April 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

East Northants Resource Management Facility Western Extension – Deadline 4 submission – action points following Issue Specific Hearing 1 and 2

We have reviewed the action points from the Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) held on 29 March 2022 and have the following comments to make:

Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1): draft Development Consent Order

3c(i) – Schedule 1 and Requirement 8

Requirement 8 clearly defines maximum quantities of waste that will be imported per annum. The total quantity of low level waste has also been capped up until the closure of the landfill. We do not feel it is necessary to add additional detail into the Development Consent Order (DCO) as to how much low level waste could be disposed of per phase.

The Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) agrees that waste cannot be placed into a newly engineered area until the Environment Agency has approved the Verification Report (paragraph 3.2). Therefore, measures will be in place throughout the process to prevent excessive low level waste concentrations during the operation of the landfill.

Issue Specific Hearing 2 (Part 1): Environmental Matters

Environmental controls

3a – Environmental Permit

We are unable to comment on the timescale for determination of the environmental permit(s) due to a number of variables. The permits will be determined as soon as we have sufficient information to do so and in as timely a manner as can be achieved.

Environment Agency

Nene House (Pychley Lodge Industrial Estate),
Pychley Lodge Road, Kettering, Northants, NN15 6JQ
Email: LNplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

*Customer services line: 03708 506 506
Calls to 03 numbers cost the same as calls to standard
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3b(ii) and (iii) – Low level waste

The SoCG between Augean South Limited and the Environment Agency has been updated to include further information on low level waste (LLW).

Reference to paragraph 4.7.9 of the National Planning Statement for Hazardous Waste has now been added to the SoCG (paragraph 5.5) where it is agreed that radioactive emissions can be adequately regulated under the pollution control framework.

It has also been made clear that the application to vary the environmental permit for the landfill disposal of LLW in the western extension has not yet been submitted (paragraph 5.6).

3c(i) and (ii) – EP breaches

We have not been contacted by the site officer of any ongoing persistent leachate issues at the site. Temporary elevated leachate issues at landfill sites can be caused by equipment failure and are normally quickly rectified.

The Spring 2020 pollution incident is thought to have originated from the treatment area rather than the landfill. Since the incident, Augean have made improvements to the site road along the northern boundary. The improvements include kerbing to prevent water run-off and the installation of surface water collection ditches beyond the road to catch anything that does break out from the site. These improvements give us assurance that all possible steps are being taken to prevent another incident.

3d – Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

The Environment Agency assess and control greenhouse gas emissions as part of the environmental permitting process. This is done by assessing and controlling the amount of total organic carbon in the waste being deposited in a landfill. This is in line with the 2003/33/EC: Council Decision on Waste Acceptance Criteria and Procedures. This will limit the amount of methane and carbon dioxide in particular.

We also monitor the amount of gas produced over the lifetime of the site and if this were to raise above a particular level then the landfill gas will be required to be extracted and combusted either in a gas utilisation plant to produce electricity or if this is not feasible then it should be flared to minimise the greenhouse gases being released.

The SoCG between Augean South Limited and the Environment Agency has been updated to include a section on greenhouse gas emissions (paragraph 4.16).

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Air Quality, Emissions and Noise

4a – Wind-blown dust

The National Planning Statement for Hazardous Waste (paragraph 4.20.4) states that “Emissions to air, land and water during operation will be controlled by the facility’s Environmental Permit.”

Our comments on ExQ1 (Q2.3.4) should be re-worded as follows:

We will consider controls over dust and particulate matter as part of the determination of the permit variation. The Environmental Statement assesses the impact from wind-blown dust for the purpose of the DCO.

Water Environment

7a – Swallow hole

We agree with the applicants’ findings that the surface water catchments in the vicinity of the swallow hole are misleading and do not truly reflect the direction of water movement in this area. This is because the direction of groundwater flow in the Lincolnshire Limestone, where the swallow hole drains to, has been proven to be in a southerly direction by extensive groundwater monitoring.

Solely referring to the Environment Agency’s surface water catchment for the Wittering Brook would lead to a conclusion of an eastwards direction of surface water movement underneath the adjacent land of the trust whereas this is not the case.

It should be noted that the surface catchments are solely derived from topographic information and do not take into account groundwater flow direction in most cases unless an area has been studied comprehensively. Therefore, the likely true situation is that any surface water draining to the swallow hole should be in the Willow Brook catchment not the Wittering Brook catchment.

The Environment Agency will aim to review this information further to enhance the catchment boundaries in this area.

7c - Review previous submissions and agree protection measures for the channel through all phases of development and record in the SoCG

The Environment Agency accepts the applicants’ response to Q1.3.2 in that the culverted drain will not be converted to form an open water course until the northern part of the proposed western extension is completed and that robust surface water controls can be managed under the environmental permit.

The SoCG between Augean South Limited and the Environment Agency has been updated to confirm that the east/west drainage channel will only be opened up once all the landfill phases to the north have been filled and capped (paragraph 4.12).

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7e – Surface water receptors

The SoCG between Augean South Limited and the Environment Agency has been updated to confirm that the Environmental Statement does not need to be amended (paragraph 4.11, 4.12).

Should you require any additional information, or wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details below.

Kind regards

Keri Monger AssocRTPI

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