

Background

We would like to provide the following briefing for the community which includes our most recent regulatory activities.

Update on Enforcement

Permit non-compliances were identified by us during a compliance audit on 18 November 2019. Consequently, we served an enforcement notice on JG Pears (Newark) Limited on 9 December 2019. The Notice required specific steps to be taken in order to rectify the permit breaches.

On 31 March 2020 we received the requested submissions from JG Pears in relation to the above steps ensuring compliance with the Notice. These relate to two aspects of the site. The Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) and the site Environmental Management System (EMS).

In respect of the ETP, we are now confident that JG Pears satisfy permit requirements (or 'Best Available Techniques') with respect to odour emissions and impacts directly associated with the ETP.

The EMS submissions have had a preliminary review for completeness. A detailed assessment will be included within our next compliance audit of the facility. At this stage we will be able to fully determine whether or not the requirements of the Permit have been met in respect of the EMS.

'Continuous Improvement' is a concept which is integral to the EMS. We expect JG Pears to regularly monitor and review procedures, processes and systems to ensure continuous improvement. As part of this requirement, JG Pears carried out an assessment and identified the opportunity for additional odour abatement equipment to be installed as part of the wider ETP process. This equipment has been ordered, although at present, due to coronavirus restrictions the company does not have a confirmed installation date from the contractor.

Although it would be unrealistic to expect the new equipment, in isolation, to eradicate odours completely, it shows that JG Pears are taking proactive steps to ensure continuous improvement and we are optimistic that there will be tangible benefits in reducing odour issues following its installation.

At a recent Environment Agency/JG Pears Directors meeting, we made it very clear about what we expect from a responsible operator. We also informed JG Pears that we will not hesitate to escalate our enforcement response (in accordance with our guidance) in the event of ongoing non-compliance.

Future Audits

Our April 2020 audit was postponed due to coronavirus lockdown and the associated restrictions. This audit will be carried out as soon as practicably possible, subject to the latest coronavirus safety guidelines. Our visit will not only focus on compliance with the EMS, but also in relation to their Odour Management Plan (OMP). JG Pears are revising their OMP in line with comments provided by experts from our National Odour Team. We are hoping to be in a position to approve their OMP if all necessary improvements are made as advised.

Study of Ambient Air Quality at Low Marnham - Hydrogen Sulphide (H2S)

We are aware of concerns in the community with regard to Hydrogen Sulphide (H2S). We carried out a study of Ambient Air Quality at Low Marnham over a period of six months (17 July 2019 - 21 January 2020) and received and reviewed the results from this monitoring last month.

Comparison of the H2S data with the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines for human health of 150µg/m³, as 24-hour mean concentrations, indicated that H2S at the monitoring site was found to be well within the specified health limits.

Community Liaison & Next Steps

We continue to focus our regulatory efforts at the site. To ensure that all interested residents are kept updated throughout the year, we will issue further newsletters. We will issue such newsletters at times when we can be the most informative.

Reporting of incidents

We continue to encourage that reports are first made directly to JG Pears using the site contact details below before reporting it to our incident hotline. This has the benefit of allowing the company to be made aware of and investigate incidents without delay.

We always use the information supplied to us via our incident hotline to gain a better understanding of the odour characterisation and potential sources on site.

Any health concerns should be reported to Public Health England via the email address below.

We will be using our newsletter to inform residents of the actions being taken at the site rather than providing individual feedback to emails or incident reports. This allows our officers to focus their efforts on site regulation.

Contacts

Complaints:

J G Pears can be called directly on telephone number 01636 821218 or on email at lmcorrespondence@jgpears.com

We would also encourage residents to use our free phone **24 hour incident hotline** number to report any odour incidents arising from the J G Pears site on 0800 80 70 60 once the issue has been reported to J G Pears.

Public Health England crcenottingham@phe.gov.uk

Thank you for your continued interest in J G Pears and in protecting your local environment.

*Note: Within the operational site boundary of J G Pears the activities are regulated by two separate permits. The rendering plant is operated by J G Pears (Newark) Ltd Permit Reference AP3436DG and the CHP Plant and associated MBM storage is operated by J G Pears (O&M) Ltd Permit Reference MP3235CC.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188

www.gov.uk/environment-agency