

Background

Following on from our September 2018 newsletter we would like to provide an update on our regulatory activities.

Update on Regulation

The site are continuing to undertake works against their improvement program and have provided the required information for the first tranche deadline of 31 October 2018.

Initial reviews of their submissions suggest that leaks have been identified on the outside of the main process building, and assurances have been provided that these leaks have been addressed.

We have been receiving submissions from the company that assure us that they are undertaking continuous improvement at the site, and are working proactively to identify and remediate where potential odour sources may occur.

Such measures have included:

- Sealing flaps above the roller shutter doors to minimise potential odour releases
- Replacing joints on pipes where wear and tear was evident
- Reviewed Biofilter procedures and maintenance and put in place measures which have reduced odour releases
- The company have been looking at ways to reduce the possibility of breakdown occurrences and that has included increasing the pipe diameter on the low temperature evaporators to reduce the possibility of fat build up, which could lead to plant down time, and resultant back log of raw materials stored on site.

This is not an exhaustive list as in the future we anticipate JG Pears will be sharing more of their updates first hand. The site have updated their website to include a 'News' section where they will be posting updates of activities on site including ongoing works and improvements made.

Other documents received have included raw material handling proposals, smoke test monitoring and Regenerative Thermal Oxidiser (RTO) actions that include confirmation of maintenance and provision of data for additional monitoring. These submissions will be reviewed and comments will be sent back to the company via Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) forms.

Many of the additional actions that we have asked the site to undertake are investigatory and as such may not lead to an immediate remedial action, however depending on the findings, they are likely to result in further actions being undertaken, to improve the specified operations and infrastructure on site.

The current program of improvements extends until 31 March 2019, at this point it is anticipated that the site will continue to make changes but within the scope of normal regulation, rather than a specified improvement plan. This will of course be reviewed taking into account the current situation on site once all remaining actions are complete.

The site have undergone a period of transition while they installed the switch over plates from the Regenerative Thermal Oxidiser (RTO) to the Combined Heat & Power Plant (CHP) plant and we are pleased to report that due to the measures put in place during this period, no odour complaints were received by the Environment Agency during this period.

As can be seen on the chart below, we have received a significant reduction in the number of odour reports received by our incident hotline over the past two months. Some of this can be attributed to the cooler weather, however there has also been ongoing work undertaken on site to address potential odour releases which we anticipate to continue over the coming months.

Month 2018	No. of complaints
January	16
February	6
March	29
April	16
May	25
June	72
July	180
August	40
September	6

We have issued J G Pears with several Compliance Assessment Reports (CARs) detailing our findings. These reports note any breaches of the permit as well as required action from J G Pears.

Copies of the above mentioned CARs can be requested from us by emailing EMDEnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk once they become available 28 days after issue to the operator, and dependent upon any commercial confidentiality appeal by the Operator.

Next Steps

We will continue our Regulatory work relating to J G Pears. We will issue a further update via a newsletter in January to continue to keep residents updated.

Reporting of incidents

We continue to encourage that reports are first made directly to J G Pears using the site contact details below. This has the benefit of allowing the company to be made aware of and investigate incidents without delay.

When residents then report to us on our incident hotline number, we always use the information that informants supply to us, to gain a better understanding of the odour characterisation and potential sources on site. However, at this time we will be using our newsletter to inform residents of the actions being taken at the site rather than providing individual feedback. This allows our officers to focus their efforts on site regulation.

Contacts

Complaints:

lmcorrespondence@jgpears.com

J G Pears can be called directly on telephone number 01636 821 218.

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.

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

*Note: Within the operational site boundary of JG 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