

Date of Explanatory Notes: May 2023

KPI 1 and KPI 2 Waste Acceptance

Two non-conformances have been received from the regulator, relating to their review of acceptance procedures and their implementation at WQ, through the undertaking of an Environment Agency audit including upstream audits of waste processing sites supplying residues to the landfill business sector.

In addition, a Regulation 36 (Enforcement Notice) Notice and associated CAR report (0460919) has been issued by the Environment Agency. A response to CAR report 0460919 has been submitted to the Environment Agency.

The conclusions to the Waste Audit Report are now being reviewed in detail, by WQL with the support of external, expert environmental consultants. The aim is to respond and provide further clarification to the Environment Agency into the waste preacceptance and acceptance procedures at the facility.

KPI 3 and KPI 4 Odour Management

No non-conformances have been received from the regulator within the month, with two site regulatory inspections confirming no direct offsite odour detected by Environment Agency officers. The Agency assessments cover a wide scope of permit conditions including engineering, containment, operational activities, landfill gas management, odour and pest management.

52 odour tours conducted by WQL, with 50 reflecting no odours experienced. 2 visits recorded minor odour (1 or less) local to the facility. Contemporaneously with these odour tours, checks on the gas collection and treatment infrastructure, site engineering and operations and local weather factors were reviewed to ensure all appropriate actions were being undertaken. No non-conformances were identified during these times. And all appropriate actions were being taken.

KPI 5 and 6 Active Tipping Area

The overall current landfill 113,047m². The active area is confined to Cell 4 and a small section of cell 2. The current active area remains contained and measures some 28,646m². This is in line with the approved capping and phasing plan, as agreed with the Environment Agency. The active operational area is progressively covered during the day to minimise the time that fresh waste remains uncovered. This is in line with best practice and our operating techniques. We retain healthy stockpiles of cover material to facilitate this progressive covering.

KPI 7 Temporary Capping

Currently, 35,597m² of the surface area of the facility is temporarily capped, either using a high specification, low permeability engineering clay or an installed geomembrane. This is in line with the capping and phasing plan for the facility, as agreed with the Environment Agency and an increase on the previous period. Maintenance works continue to clay capped areas in line with the agreed (by the Environment Agency) CQA (Construction Quality Assurance) specifications.

Permanent Capping

Relating to permanent capping, 40,032m² of the surface area of the facility is capped, by the installation of a low permeability geomembrane. This is in line with the capping and phasing plan for the facility, as agreed with the Environment Agency with all perm capping works being conducted under the process of Construction Quality Assurance (CQA). On completion of the permanent capping works, cover soils continue to be imported to the facility as part of the site restoration process.

The permanent capping to the eastern flank of Cell 4 has commenced. Preparatory works to prepare the surface area for capping have begun and the subsequent installation of geofabric and membrane commenced in early June. It is anticipated that the works will conclude in late June 2023. There may be the need to have a second phase of permanent capping installed to Cell 4 depending upon progress with the landfill operations in this area.

KPI 8 - 10 Landfill gas management

WQL continues to undertake the extensive regime of surface emission surveys, as agreed with the Environment Agency. A FID survey was conducted in May 2023, with any remedial actions now closed.

The concentration of H₂S at the facility remains within expected limits and in January, averaging 2110ppm at the Gas Utilisation Plant (GUP), as measured by CLP Envirogas Ltd.

The volume of gas captured at the facility remains within expected limits, at 3227m³/hr. The flow rate has remained high and consistent across the period. WQL continue to review this position and drive the gas management contractor, CLP Envirogas Ltd to ensure that gas collection is continually reviewed to assess relevant developments that can be made.

KPI 11 Landfill Gas Management - Landfill Gas Management Plan

The LFGMP continues to be developed by WQL and adopted by CLP Envirogas Ltd. From Appendix A of this document, three actions remain open and in progress, namely:

Site Specific Balancing Plan – this is being developed by WQL, in conjunction with the Environment Agency and CLP Envirogas Ltd. A draft has been received and is being reviewed, prior to agreement and submission to the Environment Agency.

Regular monitoring, requested by the Environment Agency of CLP Envirogas Ltd continues and is likely to remain in place.

Installation of horizontal wells in active operational areas continues as the site develops, in line with the approved LFGMP.

The LFGMP has been reviewed and issued to the Environment Agency, with comments received from the regulator on 2 June 2023 following the submission on 15 January 2023.

The LFGMP has also been issued to NuLBC, with comments received from the council. These have been subject to collaborative discussions.

KPI 12 Leachate Management Plan

Regarding the implementation of the LMP, discussions with the Environment Agency continue regarding installation of additional replacement leachate wells to ensure these are completed with the minimum weather-condition risk, environmental risk and risk to the engineering of the facility. Discussions are ongoing in this regard.

The availability of an appropriate, specialist drilling contractor has been obtained and the work scheduled in for August 2023. This will see the installation of 5 replacement leachate wells at the facility.

KPI 13- 15

11 May 2023

(CAR report 0462659) – general site inspection and review of engineering works. Minor administrative C4 received following the installation of the “trial pad” relating to the sidewall engineering. The work progressed due to a weather window between periods of inclement weather, with the Environment Agency contacted but without the specified 2 day notice period, detailed in the CQA plan.

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CAR report outstanding. No issues or odours identified by the Agency.