



Response to Request for Information

Reference EIR 000051
Date 20th June 2016

Bowmans Harbour

Request:

Concerning the thousands of tonnes of toxic waste buried at Bowmans Harbour Wednesfield in the 1980's. Could you please let me know how this is being currently monitored to ensure that the surrounding area, which includes housing, leisure centre and general hospital, remain free from contamination and the current cost to Wolverhampton tax payers.

The Bowmans Harbour site is subject to an Environmental Permit issued by the Environment Agency.

There are over 120 monitoring boreholes both within and around the perimeter of the site. The council ensures that these boreholes are monitored on a very regular basis – some are monitored every week, others monthly and the remainder every three months. Samples from each borehole are tested for methane, carbon dioxide, hydrogen and other trace gases. In addition, samples of the ground water, both true and perched, are tested for List 1 substances in accordance with Environment Agency protocols. The council has also operates a gas control system on the site which ensures landfill gas generated on site is controlled. There is currently a large amount of spare capacity on the control system due to its effective control of the low levels of gas generated on site. The monitoring results indicate no migration of gas from the perimeter of the site.

For information, the leisure centre has gas protection measures in the form of a positive pressure system installed within its foundations.

It currently costs the council approximately £30,000 per year to undertake the required monitoring of the Bowmans Harbour Site and comply with its license from the Environment Agency.