

Monitoring results leave health advice unchanged

28 day monitoring results for Hauxton checked by HPA

The most recent 28 day monitoring results for air quality around Hauxton have been received and analysed by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). The HPA has concluded that the results show that it is very unlikely that the remediation work poses a risk to human health.

Air quality around the site is checked daily (and more frequently if required) and air samples from the site are collected on a 28 day cycle for subsequent analysis. Since the work began in March, the HPA has continued to advise that the levels of compounds identified so far, either from the remediation work itself or from the deodourising system used on site, are very unlikely to pose a risk to health.

The land used to be owned by Bayer CropScience which produced agrochemicals including pesticides and herbicides. Work on-site is causing intermittent smells to be produced as contaminated soil is dug-up releasing odours which were previously trapped underground. The Environment Agency and South Cambridgeshire District Council are working with the contractor (Vertase) to limit the impact of these odours on neighbouring villages and with the Health Protection Agency (HPA) to assess any health risks.

Following a well-attended drop-in session organised by Harrow Estates in Hauxton on 23 June, answers to additional questions asked at the drop-in are being added to the South Cambridgeshire District Council web site.

Councillor Sue Ellington, environmental services portfolio holder at SCDC said: 'We're continuing to talk to local people about any concerns they have and answer their questions about the work going on at the site. We will keep on updating people as the work progresses and take all steps to minimise the effects on the local community.'

Kevin Rutterford, from the Environment Agency said: 'The HPA is doing a very thorough job of analysing the results from the air quality monitoring, which is a very important part of this project. Everyone involved with the site is working hard to minimise the nuisance odours caused by the clean-up work, but to safeguard our environment into the future, this work must be carried out now.'

ENDS

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