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Our ref: SH/AF/LET2

Date: 25 October 2010

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Dear Mr Ford

### **Diffusion tube Monitoring of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) at Hauxton**

Following the issues you raised on behalf of HauxAir, I am writing to update you with the interim results of the further monitoring we have implemented.

In relation to the concerns that the monitoring programme undertaken at the Hauxton site was not measuring the actual concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOC's) in the air, the multi-agency group decided that it was prudent to undertake duplicate monitoring with an alternative type of diffusion tube in order to compare the results.

Two methods of diffusion tube analysis have been applied to the Hauxton monitoring strategy:

- Active sampling - air is actively pumped into a diffusion tube. This monitoring is carried out over a 24-hour period.
- Passive sampling - air passes diffusively into a diffusion tube. This monitoring is carried out over a 28-day period.

Between April and August 2010, one set of diffusion tubes was used containing a sorbent called Tenax, which has a wide performance scope and is ideal for identifying a wide range of VOCs.

During September, a duplicate set of diffusion tubes were placed around the site at the same locations as the Tenax tubes for both the 24-hour pumped sampling and the passive 28-day tubes. The second set of tubes contain a different sorbent (Unicarb) that targets and captures the ultra-volatile compounds for which it was reported Tenax may not be the most suitable material.



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Results for comparative 24 hour pumped sampling at Hauxton (of which we have seen 12 days worth of data between 1<sup>st</sup> September and 16<sup>th</sup> September) has shown that there is little difference between the two sampling types and therefore the 2 sorbents. Compounds identified have been comparable and concentrations in the air recorded as being similar on the two sorbents. Indeed, the Tenax diffusion tubes have generally recorded concentrations higher than the Unicarb tubes for the most abundant volatile compounds detected.

In addition, the first set of monthly results for both types of sorbent have been analysed by the laboratory. As observed in the 24-hour pumped samples, the Unicarb and Tenax data is very similar. In addition, and also observed with the 24-hour pumped data, the Tenax tubes have generally recorded higher concentrations than the Unicarb tubes for the most abundant compounds. The results shown by the Unicarb tubes would not alter the risk assessment made to date by the Health Protection Agency (HPA).

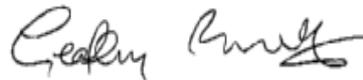
These initial results indicate that the original monitoring strategy of using just a Tenax sorbent is appropriate, and the addition of the Unicarb tubes has not altered the public health risk assessment. However, monitoring with both sorbents will continue for at least another month to ensure that a robust dataset is obtained for the Hauxton site.

I hope that you feel we have given your concerns due consideration and that the results of this new round of monitoring are helpful.

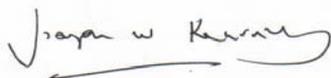
Yours sincerely,



**Steve Hampson**  
Executive Director  
South Cambridgeshire District Council



**Geoff Brighty,**  
Area Manager  
Environment Agency



**Dr Joe Kearney**  
Regional Director  
Health Protection Agency



**Dr Liz Robin**  
Director of Public Health  
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