



NEWS RELEASE

26 January 2011

Application to vary groundwater monitoring at Hauxton

An application has been received by South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) to alter the frequency of groundwater level monitoring at a remediation site.

Developers, Harrow Estates, submitted the application in relation to land at Hauxton village which is currently being cleaned up following years of contamination by a former chemical factory.

Water levels on the site are currently monitored daily, as set out in the approved Remediation Method Statement (RMS) – a document describing how the clean-up will be carried out and what checks are performed to monitor what's happening on site.

Harrow Estates has applied to reduce the frequency of groundwater level monitoring to twice weekly, unless more than 6mm of rain falls within 24 hours, in which case the levels will be monitored twice within the following three days.

When the RMS was prepared, prior investigations indicated there might be a significant quantity of groundwater on site requiring monitoring to ensure the clean up did not affect the adjacent watercourses.

Works undertaken so far have shown that there is only a relatively small amount of groundwater on the site and that less frequent monitoring would not adversely affect the adjacent watercourses.

The terms of the RMS also require regular contour maps of the groundwater levels to be produced for the regulators to assess. However, the maps are proving to be of little value.

SCDC environmental health officers and the Environment Agency have agreed that presenting the data graphically, in a line graph, would allow a more meaningful way of comparing the groundwater levels.

There is now a period of 21 days, expiring on 16 February, for any interested parties to submit their views on the application.

Representations should be made in writing to Nigel Blazeby at South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6EA or email nigel.blazeby@scambs.gov.uk.

The planning application has the reference S/2269/10 and will shortly be available to view at www.scambs.gov.uk or in person at SCDC offices.

Notes to editors:

Media queries should be directed to Emma Lowther at South Cambridgeshire District Council on (01954) 713289. SCDC are the first point of contact for any Bayer Site remediation works queries.

1. The clean-up of the site is being closely monitored by South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) and the Environment Agency, with advice from the HPA to make sure it is being done properly and that it does not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.
2. The application relates to monitoring requirements during the remediation of the site as set out in the wording of Condition 4 of the planning permission; reference S/2307/06/F. The new arrangements will also require suitable revision to the approved Remediation Method Statement at paragraphs 12.6 and 17.3
3. Harrow Estates plc also wishes to amend Condition 4 and paragraph 17.3 of the Remediation Method Statement to allow for the data to be presented graphically rather than as contour plots, and this forms part of the application.