



NEWS RELEASE

February 28 2011

Monitoring tube decision was correct

A comparison of two different types of monitoring tubes measuring chemicals at a remediation site has highlighted that the original tubes using the 'Tenax' sorbent do the job best.

This means advice from the Health Protection Agency (HPA) remains unchanged that clean-up work at the remediation site in Hauxton does not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

The review of monitoring methods began in response to concerns that the type of sorbent (Tenax) in the monitoring tubes being used was not the most appropriate to detect the wide range of chemicals at the site so a second type of sorbent (Unicarb), was added to the monitoring programme.

Interim results released to the public in October suggested the original Tenax sorbent was suitable.

The review has now concluded and experts in environmental health at South Cambridgeshire District Council and the Health Protection Agency (HPA) have been comparing the results from both sets of diffusion tubes. They can now confirm that the use of the Tenax tubes is the most appropriate for the Hauxton site.

Over a three-month period, the compounds identified on each tube were similar in concentration and nature. It was also found that in general, the Tenax tubes reported slightly higher concentrations of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) than the Unicarb tubes.

The comparison has not led to a change in the HPA's opinion on the toxicological risks posed by the VOCs in the air.

Notes to editors:

For more information please contact Emma Lowther, communications manager at South Cambridgeshire District Council in the first instance on (01954) 713289.

The land at the old Bayer site in Hauxton needs to be cleaned-up as the soil is contaminated with chemicals. The clean-up 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.