
ROCHFORD SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, STAMBRIDGE – MEMBERS' UPDATE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 To inform Members of the key findings of the Agricultural Development & Advisory Service (ADAS) follow-up assessment of Odour Emissions at Rochford Sewage Treatment Works (RSTW), Anglian Water's (AW) response to the assessment report and details of their sludge dewatering upgrade programme for the works.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The specialist consultant, ADAS, carried out an odour emission survey of RSTW, which was reported to Members at the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 20 July 2005 (Minute 295/05). AW subsequently confirmed that they had addressed the recommendations contained within the report (Members' Bulletin August 2005). In June 2006, ADAS carried out a follow-up assessment of RSTW. Their findings are detailed within this report for consideration by Members.

3 ADAS FOLLOW-UP ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 Mr S Peirson, ADAS, will be in attendance at the Committee meeting to present the assessment report and answer Members' questions. Anglian Water representatives, including engineers overseeing the upgrade works, have been invited to the meeting.
- 3.2 The assessment report makes the following recommendations:-
1. Efforts should continue to be made to further reduce odour emissions from the primary settlement tanks with the objectives of eliminating obvious gassing/bubbling and inverted or floating sludge.
 2. The effectiveness of both Peacemakers (*odour control units*) should be reviewed and appropriate improvements put in place to reduce emissions. Objective odour or hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) measurements should be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of improvements in reducing emissions.

4 SLUDGE DE-WATERING PLANT UPGRADE

- 4.1 In September 2004, AW submitted a planning application to Southend on Sea Borough Council in respect of their Southend Works. The application, if granted, would have resulted in sludge arising at the works being de-watered on site, ie, no longer being pumped to RSTW for treatment. However, AW subsequently reconsidered their options and withdrew their Southend planning application on 10 May 2006. At a meeting held on the same date,

AW informed Rochford District Council and Stambridge Parish Council of this decision and that sludge arising at the Southend Works would continue to be pumped to and treated at the Rochford Works. AW also stated that the existing de-watering process at the RSTW would be subject to upgrade.

4.2 An upgrade programme for the de-watering process has been received and officers have held site meetings with the AW engineers overseeing the works. Agreement has been reached with AW on a number of issues, including the recommendations contained within the ADAS follow-up assessment report. Specifically:-

- a. Confirmation that the medium within the two Peacemaker odour control units has been changed.
- b. The existing Peacemaker odour control units to be upgraded to include additional treatment capacity and that H₂S loggers will be installed within the units to ensure their performance.
- c. A revised Odour Management Plan will be produced by AW having regard to the 'Code of Practice on Odour Nuisance from Sewage Treatment Works'. The plan to include details of operational procedures, monitoring and planned maintenance.
- d. The de-watering system to be sealed and located within the existing building.
- e. The de-watering building to be fitted with gas detection equipment and a safe entry system at each door.
- f. Refurbishment of the picket fence thickener tanks to be completed.
- g. Confirmation that new de-sludging pumps have been installed to the primary settlement tanks and the frequency of de-sludging has been increased.
- h. AW will carry out dispersion modelling to provide predictive post upgrade emission rates.

AW commenced the upgrade programme in June 2006 with works due to be completed and contractors off site by 1 June 2007.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Expenditure will be necessary in order to obtain expert advice and opinion on matters such as the proposed AW dispersion modelling, which can be met from existing budgets.

6 RECOMMENDATION

6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) That the contents of the ADAS report be noted.
- (2) That a further report be made to Members, following completion of the upgrade works, in autumn 2007.

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Background Papers:-

ADAS Report - Follow-up Assessment of Odour Emissions at Rochford WwTW
Stambridge Essex

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