
PROGRESS REPORT UPDATE – STAMBRIDGE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members have previously requested that the issue of monitoring of the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works by the Environment Agency be considered as a matter of urgency, as conditions at the plant are changing. This special meeting of the Transportation & Environmental Services Committee has been called to ask Members to determine whether to pursue a deputation with the Minister for the Environment, Mr Michael Meacher, MP about this Council's discontent over the monitoring of the site. The monitoring of the site is a discretionary service for this Council as the Environment Agency is the enforcement body. However, the Council does have Statutory Nuisance powers.

2 DEPUTATION

- 2.1 Transportation & Environmental Services Committee on the 21st March 2000 resolved that a request be sent to Dr Michael Clark, MP to communicate with the Minister for the Environment, Mr Michael Meacher, MP on the possibility of Mr Meacher receiving a deputation, to include District and County Council Members and advisers about this Council's discontent over the monitoring of the site.
- 2.2 In response to this request, Dr Clark requested that the Council first write to the Environment Agency and if the response is unsatisfactory then he would approach the Minister for the Environment.
- 2.3 At the Transportation & Environmental Services Urgency Sub-Committee on the 13th April 2000 Members considered a verbal report from the Environment Agency. This report included information about the by-pass system then in place to remove sludge cake in skips from the site.
- 2.4 The Agency stated that it had given Anglian Water plc until the 16th May 2000 to install a new day bin screw feed conveyor to the plant.
- 2.5 Members decided to hold in abeyance, until after 16 May 2000, the decision on whether to pursue the possibility of a deputation (Minute 6/00).
- 2.6 The new part was fitted and the plant was operational on the 5th May 2000.

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- 2.7 Attached as Appendix 1 is an update report from the Environment Agency dated 19th May 2000.

3 SUPERNATANT PUMPS

- 3.1 Anglian Water have been experiencing problems with their supernatant pumps. These are the pumps that return the liquid to Southend after the sludge has been de-watered. The pumps have occasionally become blocked due to solid matter, giving rise to noise generation and some leakage. In order to resolve the situation temporary pumps were installed while a solution was found.
- 3.2 On Friday evening, 19th May 2000, there was a leakage from the pumps to which Anglian Water attended. A further leakage occurred on Saturday, 20th May 2000, when an estimated 200m³ of liquid effluent was released. The leakage was confined to the Southern area of the works, along the access road to the works from Stambridge Road and the adjoining agricultural land. The Environment Agency is considering what action to take over this incident.
- 3.3 Representatives of the Environment Agency and of Anglian Water Ltd have been invited to attend in order to answer any questions. At the time of drafting this report it is not certain whether representatives will be able to attend the meeting.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The processing of sludge is a matter of local and national concern.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The monitoring of the site, attendance of meetings etc diverts resources from other statutory functions of the Council.

6 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The sewage works is in the parish of Stambridge although the N-Viro product (K-P_Hlus) may be disposed of elsewhere.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES:-**

1. How the request for Dr Michael Clark, MP to communicate with the Minister for the Environment, Mr Michael Meacher, MP on the possibility of Mr Meacher receiving a deputation, to include District and County Council Members and advisers about this

Council's discontent over the monitoring of the site, be progressed.

2. If a meeting with the Minister is to be pursued, the issues to be raised with the Minister and the proposed agenda for the meeting. (HHHCC)

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