

Environmental and Waste Management Group

August 2017 Newsletter



EWMG ANNOUNCEMENT

The [full programme & booking info](#) is now available for EWMG's innovative full-day seminar on 3rd October in the Coventry area. Entitled '[Hear, then see – tackling the wet, windy and explosive](#)', the morning sessions will feature 4 guest speakers covering different, diverse subjects from demolition to wind farms, while a wide selection of site visits has been arranged for the afternoon.

So, this event really should offer something of interest to everyone with EH&S responsibilities – see our [Group Events](#) page for details of this and other upcoming Group events.

GUIDANCE & CONSULTATIONS

ISO 45001 second draft approved

The latest draft of ISO 45001, the new international standard for health and safety management systems, has been approved.

The second draft was subject to a ballot of 69 national standards bodies in May and June. The result was 88% for approval, with only 11% against. It would have taken 25% to trigger another rejection of the text. The ISO Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems Project Committee will next meet between 18 to 23 September in Malacca to discuss a final draft. (Read more: [cedrec.com](#))

Consultation launched into new guidelines for manslaughter convictions

The Sentencing Council in England and Wales have launched a consultation into proposals for how those who are convicted of manslaughter should be sentenced, including the offence of gross negligence manslaughter. (Read more: [cedrec.com](#))

SEPA consults on non-compliance charge increase

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) is consulting on linking compliance directly to the calculation of charges, a move that will see non-compliant operators pay more. Proposals that aim to help to further develop permit charging and assessing environmental compliance have been published by SEPA in two consultations for public feedback. (Read more: [ciwm-journal.co.uk](#))

New GPP 19 published: Vehicles Servicing and Repairs

NetRegs have published new 'Guidance for Pollution Prevention', applicable to garages, service centres and car washes in Scotland, Wales & NI. The full text of GPP19 is available [here](#). Refer to the [NetRegs website](#) for the [full list of GPPs](#), which provide guidance on environmental legislation in the devolved jurisdictions (somewhat bizarrely, this guidance is not endorsed by the EA for England).

INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

Firm fined after worker's fall at Inverness Harbour

A cargo handling company has been fined £60,000 at Inverness Sheriff Court on 25th August after one of its workers was seriously injured in an accident involving wind turbine components. Whyte Crane Hire Ltd was fined after pleading guilty to a single charge under health and safety regulations.

Wilson Reid fell while unloading turbine components in the lower hold of a ship docked at Inverness Harbour on 21 August 2015. While attempting to attach lifting gear to a unit holding turbine fins, he lost his balance and slipped and fell a distance of about 15ft (4.5m). His injuries included a fractured skull and eye sockets, a dislocated jaw and damage to his teeth. (Read more: bbc.co.uk)

Fire hits Veolia transfer station

Firefighters attended a fire at Veolia's waste transfer station on London Road, Alvaston, Derby, which started on 25th August at around midday. The company reported that the site was evacuated immediately and no-one had been injured. The Environment Agency also attended the scene to minimise the environmental impact on the local watercourse.

Firefighters worked through the night to control and extinguish the fire, which initially affected 250t of household and commercial waste, and then worked with onsite personnel to level the waste pile, damp this down and ensure it was safe to be removed from the site. (Read more: letsrecycle.com)

Investigation launched into Coventry EfW loader fall

A driver escaped serious injury after a shovel loader he was driving fell into a waste pit at the energy from waste plant in Coventry on 21st August. The vehicle is believed to have fallen more than 30ft, and the rescue operation took around three hours due to the difficulties of the location.

The incident took place at the 250,000 tonnes/year capacity energy from waste (EfW) facility managed by Coventry & Solihull Waste Disposal Co (CSWDC). The HSE confirmed that it has launched an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident. (Read more: letsrecycle.com)

Fire Crews Halt Potentially "Catastrophic" Plastic Waste Fire

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LF&RS) averted what has been called a "potentially catastrophic" incident at a recycling plant. The blaze, which started in the early hours of the morning of Monday 21st August, involved 100 tonnes of plastic waste at the V10 Polymers plant on Paterson Street in Blackburn, Lancashire.

LF&RS confirmed that an investigation is underway to determine the cause of the fire. In a statement, LF&RS confirmed that fire engines and specialist units from Blackburn, Darwen and Burnley attended the fire, and said: "Firefighters used two jets, a water tower, hazardous materials unit and drone to get the fire under control. Due to the amount of smoke in the area, several homes in the area were evacuated by the police straightaway and residents slightly further away were advised to keep windows and doors shut." (Read more: ciwm-journal.co.uk)

Employee injured at Viridor Wythenshawe MRF

The HSE has launched an investigation after an incident at Viridor's recycling site in Sharston, Greater Manchester on Sunday, 13th August.

In the incident, a male employee was injured at the company's Longley Lane materials recycling facility (MRF) in the Wythenshawe area of south Manchester. (Read more: letsrecycle.com)

Essex pair fined £175,000 over waste tipping

Two men have been handed suspended 10-month prison sentences and ordered to pay £175,000 in fines and compensation to landowner Cemex UK, after illegally tipping waste at two sites in Essex.

In a trial brought against them by the Environment Agency on 9 June, Patrick James Corbally Snr and Patrick Lee Corbally Jnr were found guilty of depositing waste, including potentially hazardous materials, in 2012 and 2013. (Read more: letsrecycle.com)

Man dies after West Midlands ELV plant fire

A man in his 50s has died following a fire at a gasification and 'advanced recycling' facility for material from end-of-life vehicles (ELVs), run as part of a joint venture between EMR and Chinook Sciences. Two other men also sustained burns in the incident, but remain in a stable condition, according to reports by the [Hereford Times](http://HerefordTimes).

The incident at the Innovative Environmental Solutions plant at Oldbury in the West Midlands occurred early on the morning of 7th August. (Read more: letsrecycle.com)

South Wales Wood owner in court

The owner of a recycling company has denied six charges in connection with a fire involving 20,000 tonnes of wood chippings at Alexandra Docks, in Newport, South Wales. The fire started in November 2015 and raged for two months, sending smoke and a foul smell across Newport and further afield.

Dennis Burke of Bridgend appeared at Newport Magistrates Court on Monday 7th August, where he pleaded not guilty to six charges connected with the fire. A preliminary hearing will be held at Newport Crown Court on 4th September 2017. (Read more: letsrecycle.com)

Waste Director Handed Suspended Sentence

Mark Smyth, aged 40, from Pershore, Worcestershire was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment suspended for 18 months, with 200 hours unpaid work following a prosecution brought by the Environment Agency at Worcester Crown Court relating to illegal waste activity. He was also ordered to pay £10,000 compensation to the landowner and disqualified from acting as a company director for 7 years.

Mr Smyth, who was the sole director of Arrow Gypsum Recycling Ltd, pleaded guilty to breaching the company's environmental permit condition and was found guilty of failing to comply with an enforcement notice served by the Environment Agency. (Read more: ciwm-journal.co.uk)

OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST

The Crown Estate - Offshore Wind Operational Report 2017

The Crown Estate has recently published its fifth annual [Offshore Wind Operational Report](#), covering operational performance during the calendar year of 2016.

The report sets out the contribution that offshore wind made to the UK's electricity supply, its health and safety performance, progress in improving the fleet's availability and reliability to date, with examples of industry sharing best practice and continual learning. (Read more: renewableuk.com)

Hazardous materials seized in largest global strike against illegal waste

More than 1.5 million tonnes of illegal waste were discovered worldwide during a global operation coordinated by INTERPOL targeting the illegal shipment and disposal of waste.

The month-long '30 days of action' (June) was the largest global enforcement action against waste crime and trafficking, with police, customs, border and environmental agencies from 43 countries participating. While previous actions have focused on electronic waste, this operation widened its scope to include all types of illegal waste, such as industrial, construction, household and medical waste. (Read more: ciwm-journal.co.uk)

Illegal waste operation carried out at UK port

In a bid to crack down on the illegal export of waste, the Environment Agency carried out an intelligence gathering operation at Harwich International Port in Essex earlier this month.

Specialist enforcement officers stopped and checked 30 HGVs carrying waste to identify any materials being unlawfully exported to Europe. As part of the operation, drivers were asked to produce supporting documents and waste loads were examined. (Read more: ciwm-journal.co.uk)

Viridor embarks on food waste CO2 trial

Waste management firm Viridor has begun a government-backed trial to use resources including carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂) harvested from landfill, to plough back into the land as a fertiliser.

The project, with Oxfordshire-based CCm Research, is being undertaken at Viridor's anaerobic digestion (AD) plant at Walpole and "aims to add value and create new markets for the waste resources available at the facility." (Read more at letsrecycle.com)

Government gives green light to major offshore wind farm

The East Anglia THREE offshore wind farm gained planning consent from the Business Secretary, Greg Clark on 7th August. The project, developed by ScottishPower Renewables, will be located 46 miles off the coast of East Anglia and will consist of up to 172 turbines. The wind farm will also have a capacity of 1.2 gigawatts, which will meet the electricity needs of 890,000 British homes per year. This project is one of four that the company is developing off the coast of East Anglia, and the second to receive planning approval. The nearby East Anglia ONE is underway and pre-construction work is taking place. (Read more: renewableuk.com).