

## Hixon PC Questions/Answers

- How many Aluminium recycling plants in the UK are situated next to a primary school?
- Can we have an updated list of other plants similar to JBM? Do you know if any of them get complaints of smell and noise (like JBM do )?

This is something that we can't answer; with our area knowledge alone, we don't have all the information you require, we can however get our National External Relations people to have a look into this.

- How many times have unplanned emissions from JBMI been reported?

### Reported by JBMI (Via Schedule 1)

08/03/12- Dross fire

11/11/11- Dust Emission

19/09/11- Dross Fire

25/02/12- Furnace Fire

### Total complaints received (Odour & Noise) 2012

Total 70, substantiated\* 3

\*Substantiated, is where an Agency Officer has been able to detect and odour /noise in person

- How many complaints of smell have been followed up by JBM using a Schedule 6 notification?

Schedule 1 notifications are not designed to follow up complaints, they are used for the Operator to self report malfunctions/breakdowns/accidents which are/have/could lead to pollution. Also, to report a breach of emission limits. Complaints from the public are handled via our NIRS ( National Incident Response System) system

- Can you define a release from the plant?

We have different types of release, point source emissions (e.g. from chimney stack) are 'allowed' and have emission limits set in the Permit. Other releases (such as dust) can come from diffuse sources; they are controlled by management plans. The site has management plans for Dust, Odour and Noise. The site must use 'appropriate measures' to control these.

Odour - The Permit has a condition which states that the emissions should be free from odour at levels likely to cause pollution, as perceived by an Agency Officer, unless the Operator has used all appropriate measures

- Why does it appear that discharges from the stack seem to take place in the hours of darkness? Is this a necessary process issue or are there other reasons?

We have looked into this (after we had a number of complaints) about excess smoke etc, especially at night. We have found that plant activities are broadly the same day & night, although there are no ARM activities at night.

It is the appearance of the emission which changes, not the content of the emission. We know the JBMI stack emission has a high water content, and the appearance of this type of emission will vary with lighting/temperatures/humidity and atmospheric conditions. Particulate levels are continuously monitored, and show no differences between day and night.

- Are there processes at this site which are hazardous and could present a danger to the public and if so what procedures exist to deal with any difficulties and provide notification to those who might be at risk.

(JBMI have been asked to provide an answer to this.)

Sites which present a high risk to the public (usually with flammable / toxic materials with a large inventory) are jointly regulated by the Agency and the HSE (Health and Safety Executive) under COMAH regulations (Control of major accident and hazard), which have two tiers (top and lower) These sites must have on site and off site plans to deal with emergency situations, some of which have to be held with the Local Authority. JBMI are not a COMAH site, the main risk factor for the site, would be a major fire (as they operate furnaces at high temperatures).

Comment from a Councillor: There continues to be a discernible smell which seems to be related to this site and is not explained away by the statement that it is only noticeable to "sensitive receptors"an expression I believe used by the EA in a previous response. If this is true there is indeed a high number of such people in the village (unlikely I think).

'Sensitive Receptor' is not a comment we would normally associate with an individual, we tend to use it to describe Schools Hospitals, local Amenities, Nature Habitats, when looking at the effects of emissions from regulated businesses. Obviously, when it comes to individuals some can be more sensitive to odours than others. We don't make statements (certainly not in the recent past) regarding the sensitivity of individual complainants.

Some time ago the PC requested the replacement of a road sign on Church Lane and that we could have the old sign to analyse as this was badly discoloured. The sign was removed but not passed onto the PC, there was also comment from a member at the last meeting referring to discolouration of paving on his property, I have a similar problem at my home and wonder if these incidents are related and have a common source.

- Is there something in the emissions for JBM (e.g. acid or alkali ) that may be causing discolouration and pitting on doors, signs, paving etc.?

Can't be sure what would cause this, in the past acid rain was given as a reason. Emissions from main stack at JBMI pass through Bag filtration, Lime and Carbon treatment to take out acidic gases. The latest monitoring results show all levels are compliant and low compared to others sources of acidic gases, such as power stations.

HCL 4.6 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (10)

NOX 5.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (50)

Particulate 1.8 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (5)

HF 0.04 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (1)

- A problem with excess dust (seen on window ledges, cars etc.) reported - is the amount of dust coming from the JBMI site monitored?

A test was carried out by the local authority a number of years ago, the results were inconclusive. We are prepared to have a look into this, and provide some analysis. Dust (particulate) is continually monitored from main stack; other sources of dust such as the ARM are controlled by the dust management plan.

There seems to be an increasingly only selective portions of collected technical data referred to in EA report summaries- e.g. the air quality survey ( no detailed debate over hourly levels of pollutants) and the recent noise survey (residents complaints dismissed as not justified without a full explanation given).

I suppose this is because by design, they are summaries. Fuller details are always available on request, we don't withhold information. Some questions, such as the background noise levels without the site running, haven't been answered, because we don't have the information, we will follow this up at the next shutdown (it couldn't be done at Christmas, because of all the building work).

We rely on our technical staff (such as our monitoring team) to decide what standards, reference periods, monitoring methods etc are used in reports. The Air Quality report used UK Air Quality Strategies (AQS) WHO guidelines and H1 guidance. I spoke to Matt Shutt ( Technical Advisor) at the time and he explained that these were the standards used by the Agency (and DEFRA).

- Will more comprehensive information be given more freely in future ( e.g. what is the background noise at night next to the factory when it is not running, specifically why complaints are seen as not justified), or will we have to invoke the freedom of information act if reasonable questions are deliberately not answered.?

All complaints received by us are investigated, unless we have already told the complainant that we don't regard the complaint as Agency business.

We give feedback on complaints (when requested), however we are often asked the same questions, when we have already given the explanation (Smoke from main stack).

We would never say a complaint was not justified, we would say a complaint was substantiated or unsubstantiated. As described above, a substantiated complaint is one that is verified in the presence of an Agency Officer.

We would never deliberately refuse to answer a reasonable request for information, but please be aware; we are a public body with limited resource.