

Case Study 10

Extension to operating life – Clifton Marsh landfill site, Lancashire

June 2010

1: Outcome

An application to vary the existing planning permission for Clifton Marsh landfill site to allow an extension to the period for landfilling and landraising was approved by the Lancashire County Council Development Control Committee on 21 April, 2010, subject to conditions (see below). These conditions limit the lifetime of the site to 31 December 2015. This means that proposals to develop a disposal facility for Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLW) at the nearby Springfields licensed nuclear site are likely to be pursued (see Case Study: [Onsite disposal of LLW at Springfields](#)).

2: Benefit

The site will continue to provide a disposal route for LLW for only a limited period of time, thereby encouraging a focus on alternatives to landfill disposal.

3: Background

Clifton Marsh landfill site has accepted LLW for disposal since 1986. The majority of LLW has been generated by the processes involved in the production of fuel for nuclear power stations at Capenhurst and Springfields. In recent years, the site has also taken some decommissioning waste from Capenhurst. In the application, the operator indicated that it intended to accept wastes from a wider geographical area in future, but that the volume of LLW disposed of would not exceed 10% of the overall volume of waste disposed to the site (the remainder of the waste comprises general household waste).

4: Process

Current planning permissions (granted in 1995) require the site to cease accepting waste on 31 December 2012. An application for an extension to the operating life to 31 December 2020 was submitted by the operator SITA in June 2009. At the same time as the planning application was submitted, an application for authorisation for the disposal of radioactive waste under the Radioactive Substances Act was submitted to the Environment Agency. Previously this authorisation had been held by the waste producers, but a change in policy now requires the site operator to hold the authorisation.

Local councillors initially raised some concerns regarding the application (receipt of general waste from outside of Lancashire, litter control at the site and the source and amount of LLW). As a result the application was deferred from the

December Development Control Committee so that clarification could be sought. There was relatively little comment in the local press.

5: Planning conditions

The planning permission was granted with a number of conditions. These included:

- a) The operating life of the site was only extended until 31 December, 2015.
- b) A restriction was placed upon the quantities of low-level waste disposed of at the site reflective of those quantities identified by the applicant. This would restrict the overall volumes of such wastes to 10,000 tonnes per annum with not more than 4,000 tonnes per annum originating from sites other than Springfields and Capenhurst or from outside the region.

6: Next steps

SITA has not indicated whether or not it intends to appeal against any of the conditions imposed. It has six months from the granting of the application in which to submit an appeal.

Information sources:

Clifton Marsh Information Leaflet (SITA) (no longer available to view)

Planning Officer's Report (no longer available to view)

Letter from SITA to Lancashire CC, 30 March, 2010 (no longer available to view)

[Decision document](#)