

- Environment Agency (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>)

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Notice

AB Produce, Measham, Leicestershire

Updated 8 September 2014

Background

AB Produce is a potato processing plant in Measham, Leicestershire. The Environment Agency and North West Leicestershire District Council are aware that local residents are experiencing odour issues related to this site and are working with the company to resolve this issue.

The company generates wash water (which is a mixture of water, peelings, starch and mud) from processing the potatoes – this is stored in lagoons on the site and spread on surrounding farm land. The sludge at the bottom of the lagoons has been identified as the main cause of the odour issues. The Environment Agency's role is to ensure the company complies with the conditions of the site's permit and takes reasonable measures to reduce odour.

The solution

The Environment Agency is working with AB Produce to create an odour management plan to prevent odour escaping from the site. As part of the plan to help improve the current odour issues, AB Produce has recently reduced the water levels in the lagoons and hired a digger to start removing the sludge.

The company is looking to use straw bunds to absorb the water from the sludge so that it can be removed from the site and used as a fertilizer at another site. The Environment Agency is receiving regular progress updates from AB Produce and will inform the company of any concerns reported via the incident hotline.

Latest news

The Environment Agency was notified by AB Produce Ltd on 8 September 2014 that they have completed emptying a second lagoon on their site. The company is also doing some limited emptying of the other 6 lagoons, although these do not contain much organic material.

The Environment Agency served an enforcement notice on AB Produce plc of Measham on Wednesday 27 August 2014. The notice, enforceable by law, requires that a new odour management plan is provided to us by Friday 19 September 2014.

The specific requirements of the notice are:

“ The plan must identify all potential sources of odour and all activities undertaken on site that are likely to cause odour emissions. It must also include appropriate measures that will be put in place to prevent or reduce odour emissions.”

Contacts

To report environmental incidents or concerns, such as odour issues, call the Environment Agency’s 24 hour, free phone, incident hotline 0800 807060.

When you call to report an odour you will be asked to score the odour out of 6 (as in table below).

Environment Agency officers also use the same scale to record the strength of the odour when they conduct odour surveillance around the area. To give you some sense of scale, an odour of 6/6 would be the same as the strongest odour you could ever encounter and could make you physically ill.

Score	Description
0	no odour
1	very faint odour
2	faint odour
3	distinct odour
4	strong odour
5	very strong odour
6	extremely strong odour

For general enquiries relating to AB Produce please email midlandscustomerserv@environment-agency.gov.uk