

## Europe Lacking Drive to Reduce Transport Noise

At the end of August, a three part review of the Environmental Noise Directive (END) was finally published\*. Consultants were tasked with producing a review of implementation, an inventory of measures to reduce noise and an impact assessment and proposal for policy options to benchmark progress and inform a review of the Directive.

Originally due in July 2009, the delay in this work is symptomatic of the slow progress throughout END implementation to date as EU Member States have struggled to fabricate procedures and co-ordinate responsible authorities to manage environmental noise. In replying to our letter on behalf of UK NGOs expressing concerns about END implementation (reported in the September Briefing), Commissioner Potocnik stated the wish of the Commission to base future work on 'a robust and comprehensive review of the Directive that encompasses all available information on the Member States' experience, and the latest findings of the health community, notably at the level of the World Health Organisation'. However, these reports, which form part of that review, are already demonstrably out of date (for example, information on noise action planning in England based on an interview given in July 2009 – before noise action plans were even drafted). Without substantial

further work we fail to see how the Commission can get a clear picture of noise action planning progress across Europe. If the 2012 target for round two of noise mapping is to be met, it looks likely that it will need to get underway uninformed (officially anyway) by experience across Europe of first round implementation.

Criticisms of the reports aside, what this work does give us is a snapshot of the differing approaches being taken by Member States to mapping and action planning, and highlights areas of difficulty. Common issues include:

- the one year time span between strategic noise mapping and action planning is too short – two years would be more workable;
- lack of guidance on co-ordinating work on noise action planning and what a noise action plan should look like;
- lack of clarity on quiet areas – particularly in open country.

On policy, the consultants recommend the inclusion of trigger values for action to be taken to reduce noise in a revised Directive. They find a failure by Member States to enforce noise limit values where set which "ultimately reflects a lack of political will to prioritise noise reduction over the economic

gains from the private activities that generate noise.... If national legislation does not generate sufficient legal imperative to overcome technical and budgetary restraints to addressing noise, this suggests that the same drivers would impair implementation of any EU level", a rather depressing conclusion showing there is still much work to be done to raise the profile of noise. On noise reduction measures, reduction at source is deemed the most cost effective way forward. However, having acknowledged the overwhelming lack of political recognition of noise impacts, these reports make no recommendations on improving guidance on raising the profile or better communication of the process that would support better recognition of the health, social and economic impacts of noise, and thereby drive political action.

Over the coming months EPUK will be working for better control of noise at source – both through work on the pending revision of EU vehicle noise regulations, the pending review of the Directive on noise from outdoor equipment, and in raising awareness of noise reduction in practice, in particular communicating the benefits and encouraging the procurement of quieter tyres.

\*Full report at:

[http://www.milieu.be/noisenoise\\_page\\_5.html](http://www.milieu.be/noisenoise_page_5.html)

## Quietening Open Spaces

There is increasing recognition of the critical role quality open spaces can play in improving local environmental quality, supporting climate change and biodiversity objectives and contributing to better mental and physical health of city residents and workers. There is also a requirement in the Environmental Noise Directive to identify and protect quieter open spaces in our most densely populated cities. Our report commissioned by the City of London, shows how, by taking a joined up approach to open spaces management, we can work towards achieving quieter city parks and squares that are healthier for us, for wildlife, our cities and the wider environment.

The report can be downloaded from:

<http://www.environmental-protection.org.uk/publications/>



Sunken open space, in this case planted with spaced out trees, outside the Aviva building, Bishopsgate, can reduce the visual and aural impact of traffic

## Guest Article

# Volcanic Eruptions Have Their Quiet Side!

The volcanic ash crisis this April caused chaos for air travellers worldwide. For those left at home, it was the chance of a lifetime to experience the soundscape around them without aircraft noise. For NPL scientists testing a novel noise monitoring system, it was an unexpected but fortuitous opportunity to illustrate the strengths of the system.

The system is called DREAMSys (a Distributed Remote Environmental Array and Monitoring System) and is being developed by an industrial consortium led by NPL. The system uses MEMS microphones to provide a low-cost, but accurate means of producing environmental noise maps to validate predictions and evaluate the impact of action plans. Development of the system began in September 2007 and outdoor testing at a number of sites across the UK has been underway since July 2009, providing exposure to the whole range of British weather conditions!

Of the different sites, two were particularly useful for capturing the flight ban's effect on background noise. At the NPL site in Teddington (about 8 miles Southeast of London Heathrow Airport, and underneath one of the flightpaths), nine prototype units are positioned to listening to

Heathrow Airport. A second site at Silvertown Quays, at the west end of the London City Airport's runway, provided an even richer opportunity. Forty units were distributed over the site until July, constantly monitoring noise from all sources. Noise sources in the area include traffic on nearby A-roads, some light industry and the Docklands Light Rail, but the predominant source is aircraft take-off or landing events which, on a typical weekday, happen every few minutes.

Noise data gathered during the flight ban, and indeed at any other time, can be browsed online at the website ([www.dreamsys.org](http://www.dreamsys.org)), where interactive noise maps based on Google Maps are available.

The figure below presents the data from the array at Silvertown Quays over a 3-week period this April. It shows the temporal variation of the

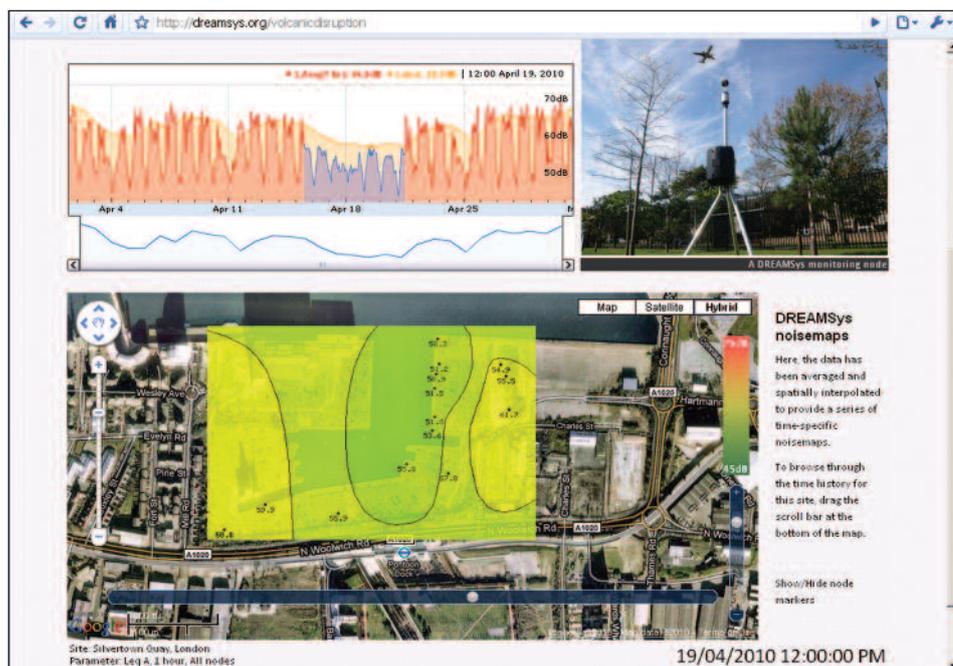


Site trials demonstrated that the system can survive the extreme heat and cold.

ambient  $L_{Aeq}$  noise levels for daytime ( $L_{day}$ ) and combined day-evening-night periods ( $L_{den}$ ). Initially the data is almost monotonous in its repeatability. Then during the ban a very noticeable change in this trend was observed: a dip of 9 dB in the  $L_{day}$  levels and of 7 dB in the  $L_{den}$  levels. The DREAMSys array at NPL also picked up the effect of the ban but, with aircraft noise not being prevalent in Teddington, the reduction was not dramatic.

NPL was able to capture this data because DREAMSys has been developed for long-term unattended deployment, with wireless data transmission via GSM telemetry. It aims to offer decision makers and action planners an accessible reality check in everyday and strategic noise management according to the Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC), alongside the current modelling-based process. Its measurement accuracy has been verified, both in the laboratory and in-situ at various outdoor locations with different acoustic environments, by comparing with Type 1 sound level meters, both measuring  $L_{Aeq}$  and typical statistical parameters.

The DREAMSys has been developed as an affordable solution for large-scale environmental noise monitoring over extended time periods. Future developments of this concept will be guided by the interests of stakeholders and the requirements of the environmental acoustics community. The project, which is funded by the Technology Strategy Board, is already generating significant interest.



DREAMSys Interactive noise maps during UK flight ban - [www.dreamsys.org](http://www.dreamsys.org).

## Contacts

### EDITORIAL TEAM

**James Grugeon** 01273 878779  
James.grugeon@environmental-protection.org.uk

**Loveday Murley** 01273 878780  
Loveday.murley@environmental-protection.org.uk

**Mary Stevens** 01273 878781  
Mary.stevens@environmental-protection.org.uk

**Carina Perkins** 01273 878778  
Carina.perkins@environmental-protection.org.uk

**Ed Dearnley** 01273 878771  
Ed.dearnley@environmental-protection.org.uk

**Lisa Crews** 01273 878782  
Lisa.crews@environmental-protection.org.uk

### EVENTS & MEMBERSHIP

**Carry Keay** 01273 878776  
Carry.keay@environmental-protection.org.uk

Printed and published by  
Environmental Protection UK (formerly NSCA)  
44 Grand Parade, Brighton BN2 9QA

Tel: 01273 878770 Fax: 01273 606626  
Email: [admin@environmental-protection.org.uk](mailto:admin@environmental-protection.org.uk)  
Website: <http://www.environmental-protection.org.uk>

Charity Registered in England and Wales no. 221026  
Charity Registered in Scotland no. SC040990

Design by ICD [www.icd.gb.com](http://www.icd.gb.com)

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## From the Chief Executive



James Grurgeon

The team at Head Office are starting the important process of a review of our policy, business and communications strategies, starting with a thorough look at the focus and direction of our work on policy on 11th October. Members and supporters on our policy committees have already been invited to contribute to that discussion and I'd like to extend that invitation to you through this column.

It's been a busy and enjoyable first two months in the role of Chief Executive. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to talk to me and to share your views on how we go about building a relevant, sustainable and leading organisation with a reputation for leadership on environmental protection.

As we fine tune the focus of our policy team, ensuring that it is linked to high quality products and services as well as advocacy, we will also develop the narrative and content that will drive the proactive external communications and advocacy on environmental protection and climate change I want to lead.

I want to see us build on our excellent relationships with local authorities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to offer policy leadership, guidance, consultancy, events and advocacy that support climate change action and the delivery of associated and integrated environmental protection at a local level.

I want us to lead on the sustainable cities agenda, exploring opportunities to work in partnership with the private sector and other organisations working in this space to form

partnerships to support leadership in the UK, in the EU and internationally on this critical and cutting edge climate change issue.

And I want to explore opportunities to support sustainable waste strategies at a local level, integrating this important local environmental protection issue into our work and opening up new opportunities to work with existing and new partners.

These are my priorities and they have come from and been developed by my conversations with many of you over the past few weeks. Above all they are about building on our legacy and history but also making sure we are relevant to the world in which we all live today and that we're a leader and a strong advocate for the protection of our environment and action on climate change.



## Pollution Control Online

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Pollution Control Online and the Pollution Control Handbook are supported by the Environment Agency



# Time to Rethink the Renewable Heat Incentive?

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) was one of the previous Government's main policy plans for supporting renewable energy, however the new coalition Government has so far delayed any decision on proceeding with the scheme, with concerns raised about the potential cost. But does the delay give an opportunity to rethink some of the RHI's aims? Ed Dearnley, EPUK's Air Quality & Climate Change Policy Officer, looks at some of the issues.

The summer months have seen many column inches in the press covering the benefits of microgeneration and the subsidies now on offer for those installing these technologies. The previous Government launched 'Clean Energy Cashbacks' for microgeneration in April, and companies are now starting to offer free solar photovoltaic panels for homeowners with a suitable roof who are willing to sign over the subsidy payments. With interest on loans and savings accounts currently at historically low rates, installing solar panels to benefit from the subsidies is proving to be an attractive option for many homeowners.

However, the scheme has its detractors and some commentators have pointed to the fact that, despite significant activity in the social housing sector, the majority of those benefiting will be owner occupiers who either have access to the money or credit needed to fund the installation, or who fall into the qualification criteria for 'free' installations. They point out that the costs of the scheme will inevitably be met by increases in fuel bills, which will affect everyone, including those who are unable to install microgeneration technologies in their homes such as people who own leasehold flats and the expanding private rented sector, which already suffers from low standards of energy efficiency and disproportionate levels of fuel poverty. The cost effectiveness of the scheme has also come in for criticism, which is borne out in the Government's own impact assessment accompanying the scheme. This expects costs to 2030 of £8.6 billion, yet monetised benefits of only £420 million.

The previous Government planned to accompany the Clean Energy Cashback scheme with a parallel scheme for renewable heat – the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). This scheme aims to increase the amount of UK heat produced by renewable sources from 1% at the moment, to 12% by 2020. The cost effectiveness of this scheme has also been questioned, with projected costs of between £10 and £22 billion to 2030, and a 'net present value' (i.e. monetised benefits minus costs) of minus £10.5 billion. Again, costs would ultimately be borne by increased fuel bills, with domestic bills projected to increase by 14% and industrial bills by 20%. The new Government has announced tentative support for the RHI but is yet to confirm the final shape of the scheme, perhaps mindful of introducing

a programme that could significantly raise fuel bills at a time of squeezed household incomes and business earnings.

Surely the bedrock of any approach to meeting carbon reduction and renewable energy targets needs to be energy efficiency – improving energy efficiency brings the twin benefits of directly reducing carbon emissions and also boosting the proportion of energy supplied by renewables (as energy consumption falls, existing renewable generation can make up a bigger proportion of the whole). Sectors where responsibilities for capital investment in buildings and paying fuel bills are split (for example rented homes and offices) need particular attention, with a carrot of free or low cost insulation and a stick of mandatory energy efficiency standards (already enforced in the social housing sector through Decent Homes standards). These measures will need to be paid for, and with large increases in fuel bills likely to become increasingly politically difficult, perhaps the priority for subsidy money should be cost effective energy efficiency measures rather than the more expensive end of the renewables spectrum.

As a strong supporter of renewable energy solutions, Environmental Protection UK has long advocated a targeted approach to renewables so that technologies appropriate to their installed locations are used. Passive technologies such as solar are well suited to an urban environment, with solar thermal panels in particular offering reasonable cost efficiency for reducing carbon emissions and with the spin off benefits of reducing domestic combustion and hence emissions of air pollutants. Meanwhile in rural areas there is greater scope to use technologies such as biomass and heat pumps. In areas not connected to the gas grid, the potential carbon savings these technologies offer over high carbon heating fuels such as coal, oil and electricity are very large. These technologies can also help to reduce rural fuel poverty, which can be particularly entrenched due to the lack of access to relatively cheap natural gas heating, and a large number of elderly properties with poor energy efficiency.

The RHI and Clean Energy Cashback schemes do not currently provide this kind of targeted approach, instead taking a blanket approach to support for renewable technologies whatever their location. A return

to a system of purchase grants for renewable systems, guided by a common vision between DECC, Defra and CLG for what technologies are suitable for what locations, would be far more effective, and also guard against the financial downsides of generous open ended public subsidies for renewable technologies. The aim of any grants scheme should be to develop the market then gradually withdraw financial support, rather than offer permanent public subsidies to expensive technologies.

Achieving a shift in the mindset of those designing support for low carbon technologies at both the national and local levels will not be easy, and will require those working on local environmental quality and fuel poverty to engage vocally and positively with the low carbon agenda. To date these groups, including Environmental Protection UK, have perhaps been clearer about what they don't want, rather than what they do. Presenting a strong, progressive and consistent vision of a UK where reducing carbon emissions also leads to better local environmental quality and the elimination of fuel poverty is absolutely crucial if we are to win this debate.

## EPUK Joins 10:10

EPUK has been involved with the 10:10 campaign for a while. Our Chief Executive James Grugeon inspired the creation of the citywide Brighton and Hove 10:10 campaign and sits on the board of the local steering group alongside local academics, sustainability professionals and representatives from the council. Brighton and Hove is the first city to sign up to 10:10 so there will be lots of opportunities to offer guidance and get involved with the campaign.

Our Brighton head office is home to the Brighton and Hove 10:10 team and we are looking for ways to work together locally. In addition to reducing our emissions as a charity, we have encouraged all our staff to sign up and look at ways to reduce their emissions at home.

We are also encouraging our members to sign up to the national campaign, which you can do at <http://www.1010global.org/uk/join>



# DfT Confirm Electric Vehicle Grants

The Department for Transport has confirmed that purchase grants for electric vehicles, first announced under the previous Government, will be available from January 2011. The confirmation precedes the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, highlighting the importance that it is placing on the scheme.

The grants will subsidise the purchase of a qualifying vehicle by up to £5000. Vehicles will have to meet criteria on safety and performance that will shortly be announced by DfT – these are likely to rule out some of the most popular currently available vehicles such as the G-Wiz, in favour of more sophisticated cars now coming onto the market. These will include both pure electric such as the Nissan Leaf, and plug in hybrid cars such as the forthcoming GM Ampere. £43 million will be available until March 2012, with budgets beyond this being decided in the Comprehensive Spending Review.

The Office for Low Emission Vehicles has

also shortlisted 13 bids for the second round of the 'Plugged in Places' scheme for electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Following confirmation of the budget in the Comprehensive Spending Review, up to six successful bids will be announced later this year.

Electric vehicles are a key plank of Government plans to de-carbonise road transport. Electric vehicles are far more efficient than internal combustion engine equivalents, and in theory will benefit from low carbon generation added to the electricity grid. To date though, battery technology has kept electric vehicles in the margins. New battery technologies and concepts such as plug in hybrids are now coming onto the market, but they don't come cheap. For example, the unsubsidised price of GM's Ampere will be almost twice that of the Vauxhall Astra on which it is based; the £5000 purchase grant and cheap charging costs will mean though that the vehicle will begin to make financial sense to many drivers.

## Making a Noise about Wind

Our conference in October looking at wind turbine noise assessment brought together local authorities, noise consultants, government officials, lawyers, developers and those suffering the effects of noise from turbines. Our aim was to bring all parties together in this continuing contentious debate – to work towards finding a way forward for policy and practice that will balance the deployment of necessary renewable technologies with the need to protect wind farm neighbours from harmful impacts. We can claim success in engaging a cross sectoral audience in a (very) lively debate which threw up many difficulties – and some suggestions for ways forward. Of the themes running through the day were the assertions that prevention of impacts is key as the only effective attenuation methods mean a significant loss of generating capacity, and the lack of an effective route to take action if a serious problem should arise. Thanks to all delegates, speakers and chairs for their participation. A full report in next Briefing.

Presentations can be found at <http://www.environmental-protection.org.uk/events/details/?id=2516>.

## Rebalancing Licensing to Keep the Peace

While pitched as a Big Society initiative, 'empowering individuals, families and local communities to shape and determine local licensing', the Home Office consultation on licensing reform to a large extent streamlines and strengthens the powers of licensing authorities. Given that there has been a wide variation in interpretation of the Licensing Act, EPUK welcome this.

The stated Government aim is managing impacts and behaviour associated with excessive drinking. While it is disappointing that there is no overt reference to the preventative role licensing plays in noise management, it is implicit here that licensing issues relate directly to building healthy local environments, maintaining good quality of life in neighbourhoods and also to the cost effective operation of the local authority services that manage statutory noise nuisance and anti social behaviour. We believe that support in the form of examples of noise management plans, model licensing conditions and guidance on communication channels for effectively engaging communities would allow local authorities to use their local knowledge to set and enforce common sense conditions.

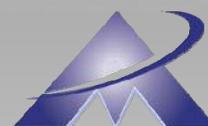
The consultation also covers Temporary Event Notices (TENS). Currently only the police can object to a TEN on crime prevention grounds and the minimum notice period has been 48 hours. This has led to problems with submissions over weekends and Bank Holidays – a recent extension to two working days should address problems here. We welcome the proposal to extend the right to object under the three other licensing objectives – those being public safety; the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

Our full response is available at: <http://www.environmental-protection.org.uk/publications/>

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# Investigation of Potentially Contaminated Sites

## Consultation Workshop on Revision of British Standard 10175

Over 50 delegates attended the workshop in August organised by the West Midlands Division and held at Arup Midlands Campus in Solihull. The purpose of the workshop was to provide a forum for discussion of the revision of BS 10175: Investigation of potentially contaminated sites – Code of practice. The workshop was held in conjunction with The Society of Chemical Industry (SCI) and the British Standards Institute and was kindly supported by Arup and Alcontrol Laboratories.

The revised BS 10175 Code of Practice will provide expected standards and comprehensive guidance to aid the investigation of all potentially contaminated sites. It also applies to land with naturally enhanced concentrations of

potentially harmful substances and is expected to be in place for the next 10 years. This important divisional event provided the platform to learn more about the changes from those directly involved with the document and more importantly, it provided the opportunity to question, comment upon and offer feedback from those attending.

The event was chaired by Dr K Clive Thompson, Chief Scientist of ALcontrol, and a member of BS EH4/ committee, who explained the purpose of the event. He was followed by Richard Owen of Arup (the contractors responsible for authoring the revised document), who provided the background to the development of the revised

standard and highlighted the areas where key changes have been made. The workshop then opened up to questions, comments and lively debate; with rapporteurs providing invaluable assistance by offering clarification, responses and in some cases supporting comments raised during the event. The rapporteurs represented both BS steering committee members and EPUK's West Midlands Division and included Mike Smith (MA Smith Environmental Consultancy), Chris Swainston, (Principal Geoenvironmental Engineer, Geotechnics), Martin Fairlie (Director, Martin Fairlie Consulting Ltd) and Bill Baker, (Independent Consultant)

Key issues highlighted during the event included:

- terminology, in particular the use of phases to specify the investigation stages;
- sampling frequency recommendations;
- the interface of the standard with current government policy relating to planning and the contaminated land regime which is currently considered to be in a state of flux.

It was agreed by BSI and those directly involved in the revised Code of Practice that the event was a great success and formed a vital step in the consultation process. The revised standard is expected to be published in January 2011.

### Remember Remember - Bonfire and Firework Law

As the bonfire season approaches, a reminder that, while fun, bonfires and fireworks can cause pollution and nuisance. Our leaflets 'Garden Bonfires' and 'Fireworks' set out the legislation and dos and don'ts for having low impact bonfire night/Diwali fun that doesn't annoy the neighbours or their animals. Leaflets available online at: <http://www.environmental-protection.org.uk/publications/default.aspx>

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## Condition Non-Compliance Causes Contamination Fears

Environmental Protection UK stressed the importance of compliance with planning conditions as part of our response to a tranche of planning consultations released under the previous Government which concluded in March of this year (see 'The Planning System: A Call for Effective Regulation' Briefing number 113, May 2010). Concerned by repeated rhetoric that the planning system must be simplified and made quicker for applicants, EPUK highlighted that this must not come at the sacrifice of effective regulations which could compromise safe and appropriate developments.

A recent event in Worthing, West Sussex, bears evidence to these concerns. Despite winning local awards for design quality and sustainability of their Lennox Mews development, Worthing Homes have been left with hefty bills, damaged reputations and distinctly unhappy residents when a proposed sale unearthed that the developer had failed to comply with a condition to investigate potential contamination of the former garage and MOT centre.

Twelve households are affected and Worthing Homes, who part-own the majority of the properties have agreed to cover the costs of work at the homes but have refused to buy out affected residents. Preliminary soil testing has led Worthing Homes to state that the contamination "is similar to, but no worse, than if you had a bonfire in your back garden." This however is unlikely to offer much reassurance to residents concerned about long-term health risks and, more immediately, unable to sell their homes and coming to terms with the reality of property blight.

With a review of the national planning framework expected soon, Environmental Protection UK members may be interested to hear the latest plans direct from Mark Plummer, Team Leader - Minerals, Waste and Pollution Control, Communities and Local Government at the upcoming Land Autumn Workshop to be held on 21 October (see page 8).

# SAGTA Recommendations for Part 2A Review

The Soil and Groundwater Technology Association (SAGTA) have written to ministers setting down their views and recommendations for the review of the Part 2A statutory guidance on contaminated land.

Representing UK companies 'who own and responsibly manage contaminated land', SAGTA is critical of the current regime which it says is 'hampered by inconsistency and uncertainty in application of the legal processes', blighting homes and causing unnecessary stress on the public and unnecessary cost on business. As well as the need for regulatory action to be proportional, and clearer direction of how sites should be prioritised under Part IIA with recognition of national programmes by major landowners, SAGTA\* calls for a number of other issues relating to the operation of the Part 2A regime to be given consideration, including

- Avoidance of determination of sites where remediation will not follow due to cost benefit or sustainability, and a mechanism to remove inappropriate determinations;
- Timeframe for determined sites to undergo remediation, and de-registration of responsibly remediated sites;

- The Environment Agency to assume responsibility for all Controlled Water matters, and clear direction on 'significance' with response to Controlled Waters;
- Review of exclusion tests for Class A persons so they may be applied regardless of whether there are other parties in the liability group;
- Practical definition of what constitutes POSH (Possibility of Significant Harm), funded from top-slicing the capital grant money;
- Establishment of a national advisory team to manage the Part IIA process to replace technical and legal specialists within local authorities.

Defra is expected to consult on the revised guidance in the near future – delegates to Environmental Protection UK's Autumn Land Quality Update on 21 October will hear direct from Tom Coles, Head of Contaminated Land, Defra, on the proposals and all members are urged to engage with this review.

\*Full text of SAGTA's letter available from [lisa.crews@environmental-protection.org.uk](mailto:lisa.crews@environmental-protection.org.uk)

## Wind Turbines May Impact Air & Soil Quality

Initial findings by researchers at Glasgow University\* suggest that deposition of particle pollution could be higher around wind turbines when they are sited near industrial sites, as they impact on air movement, concentrating the plumes of industrial emissions.

The shortage of acceptable locations for wind turbines has led developers to consider siting them near industrial plant (where there is less likelihood of resident neighbours who might be affected by any noise, or of legitimate claims about landscape impact). However, this work, in response to concerns raised by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, finds a potential cause for concern in concentration of pollutants deposited around these turbines.

While to date no analysis on impact has been carried out, the work suggests that land use around turbines sited near industry needs to be carefully considered, and that more research is required. The work also found that interaction between plumes and turbine rotors can induce unsteady loading on the turbine rotor, reducing the operational life of the turbine.

\*Interaction of an Eularian Flue Gas Plume with Wind Turbines, T.M Fletcher; R.E.Brown, University of Glasgow, presented at American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

## Part IIA: The Future for Scotland

Environmental Protection UK - Scotland and the Scottish Government held a workshop at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, in late August entitled 'Part IIA: The Future for Scotland'. At the event, Francis Brewis (Soils and Contaminated Land Team, the Scottish Government) announced that the Scottish Government intends to review and revise Scotland's Statutory Guidance for Part IIA.

Jonathan Wilson (Envirocentre and Chair of the Scottish Land Quality Advisory Group) set out the aims of the day and asked 'what are the apparent failings in implementing Part IIA and how can we help make it better'. Gordon McCreath (Pinsent Masons) looked at the liability provisions as laid down in the Statutory Guidance and said that clarity and additional detail will be the key to the revision.

The delegates (representing the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, consultancies, Universities and 75% of Scottish local authorities) were then split into groups for a series of more detailed breakout sessions. Session 1 – the key issues with Part IIA – asked "what are the barriers to the implementation of the Part IIA regime"; the top three responses were funding and resources, lack of technical guidance, and that the legislation and statutory guidance are too complex.

Following lunch, Session 2 focused on the 'Determination Process and Securing Remediation' by asking delegates about the inspection process, special sites, the determination process, remediation and liability provisions. Session 3 looked at the 'Definition of Contaminated Land' by asking a number of

questions on SPOSH (Significant Possibility of Significant Harm).

The aim of the day was to produce feedback, which will be delivered to the Scottish Government for their use in the revision of the Statutory Guidance. EPUK Scotland welcomes the decision to review the Statutory Guidance and will continue to support and advise the Scottish Government through our membership of the Contaminated Land Advisory Group.

The event was organised and facilitated by Environmental Protection UK – Scotland's Land Quality Advisory Group



From l-r: Janet Harris, Caroline Thornton, Sarah Hamill, Alison McKay, Jonathan Wilson, Anthony Carson, Frances McChery, Francis Brewis, James Crawshaw and Andrew Hursthouse



# Events

## 12 October – Bristol

### Healing the Rift: Health Effects of Air Quality and Noise

12th Annual Conference of the Air Quality Management Resource Centre, UWE and EPUK's South West Division. Speakers include Robert Vaughn (Defra); Frank Kelly (ERG, King's College, London), Simon Birkett, Campaign for Clean Air in London), and James Grugeon (EPUK's new Chief Executive). More details online or contact [jo.barnes@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:jo.barnes@uwe.ac.uk).

## 13 October – Aston Conference Centre, Birmingham

### Cost Effective Noise Management

Noise specialists know that the most economical way forward for noise management is prevention – and that once a problem arises, inter disciplinary co-operation is the effective way forward. In the current climate of cuts, Noise Update 2010 aims to look at efficient ways forward for noise management – through forward planning, thoughtful design and joined up working. We will also have an update from the new government on emerging policy on noise.

## 21 October – Birmingham

### Land Quality – The Essential Update 2010

With the new Government pledging a radical overhaul of the planning system, plans to review the statutory guidance for Part 2A underway, and budgets being cut across the board, it's unsurprising that practitioners report difficulty in keeping up to date with developments pertinent to their profession. In this complex and varied sector, it's almost impossible for any one practitioner to remain at the forefront of technical and policy knowledge yet the demands of job require that they do so. Environmental Protection UK's Land Quality Autumn Update will ensure you make the most of time and cost limitations by pulling together the key changes in the context of what they mean to your profession.

## 26 October – Glasgow

### Tackling Small Scale Turbine Turmoil

To date, the only 'official' guidance available for wind turbines is ETSU-R-97, which has proved unsuitable for assessing small wind turbines (15m and under) and, with proposals for permitted development at a set noise level pending, it is unclear how assessment should best be undertaken. This half day workshop for local authority officers will look at noise impact assessment of small scale wind turbines and find a practicable way forward.

Contact Clare Carruthers for further information ([clare.carruthers@environmental-protection.org.uk](mailto:clare.carruthers@environmental-protection.org.uk) 0141 287 6530)

## 3 November – Birmingham

### Cleaner Air on a Shoestring

The new Government has committed to working towards EU air quality standards as part of their coalition agreement, reinforcing the calls made in the Environmental Audit Committee's 'Air Quality' report that air quality must be a higher priority for Government. However, in a financially constrained environment how can national Government, local authorities and their partners ensure that they implement measures that provide the maximum air quality benefits at the lowest possible costs? This year's Autumn Update focuses on low cost air quality management measures, taking in best practice from across the public and private sectors.

## 5 November – Glasgow

### 2014 Commonwealth Games Environment & Sustainability Conference

Environmental Protection UK - Scotland have been asked by the Glasgow 2014 Ltd (the Organising Committee), Glasgow City Council and The Scottish Government to co-ordinate the administration for their major sustainability conference ahead of the 2014 Commonwealth Games. The key topic being discussed will be sustainability throughout the Games, from preparation, through hosting and the legacy of Glasgow 2014, and will include the launch of Glasgow City Council's Sustainability Plan, the official consultation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment, and Sustainability DVD. Contact Clare Carruthers for further information ([clare.carruthers@environmental-protection.org.uk](mailto:clare.carruthers@environmental-protection.org.uk) 0141 287 6530)

Further details including how to register available at [www.environmental-protection.org.uk/events](http://www.environmental-protection.org.uk/events)