

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 17 March 2025

Question from: Rick Davies

Question to: Councillor Durrans, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Services and Communities

QUESTION

The council will be aware that Calder Valley Skip Hire has applied to the Environmental Agency to add Hazardous waste codes 19 10 03* and 19 10 05* to their current waste permit at Belmont which currently only permits non-hazardous waste.

Given that waste code 19 10 03* is small light hazardous particles and the Belmont site is immediately adjacent to the river Ryburn and is prone to flooding and draining into the River Ryburn, at least twice this past winter. And that the site is surrounded by woodland accessible to the public, where light hazardous particles are likely to be blown about and settle. A public footpath also crosses the middle of the site. Does this comply with current Planning permission for the site? Does Calderdale Council consider it appropriate that hazardous waste is handled on this site and will they be opposing this variation to the Belmont environmental permit?

Response

Calderdale Council welcomes the strengthening of the EWC waste codes as this change affords a higher level of protection to both human health and the environment by ensuring hazardous waste is separated and dealt with in the most appropriate manner.

The changes to the waste codes mean that what was previously a non-hazardous waste stream will now change to what is termed a 'mirror' waste code which simply means the waste may or may not be hazardous and must be tested to determine this fact. This change requires additional testing of the waste material and requires separation of any waste deemed hazardous.

Any hazardous waste will be stored separately in a designated area and will be taken off site to an appropriate facility to be dealt with. Testing of the material is proposed to be carried out every 1000 tonnes of waste accepted.

The current permit allowed for metal shredder residues, known as fragmentation fluff, or frag fluff to be accepted under non-hazardous EWC codes 19 10 04 and/or 19 10 16. This practice has ceased and will only begin again with the additional testing regime, as mentioned above, if the variation is granted by the Environment Agency.

It is not for Calderdale Council to comment on the appropriateness of the application as this is a matter for the Environment Agency, as the regulator, to determine following a thorough review to ensure protection of both public health and the environment.

In keeping with existing practice, the Council's Environmental Health Officers will continue to support and work with the Environment Agency to ensure protection of both human health and the environment.

With regard to the planning permissions associated with the site, application ref no 04/02712/FUL which relates to the site as a whole, and the associated amendment application ref no 17/00114/VAR, do not contain conditions which restrict the type of waste, as defined by EWC codes, which can be processed on site. Any waste tested under the new codes found to be hazardous would not be considered acceptable as fuel for the SWIP, approved under application ref no 17/00113/WAM, as condition 3 restricts the use of hazardous waste for this purpose.