

Ribble Valley Borough Council
Council Offices
Church Walk
Clitheroe
Lancashire
BB7 2RA

Our ref: NO/2012/104062/01-L01
Your ref: 3/2012/0561
Date: 03 September 2012

Dear Sir

**PROPOSED ENGINEERING OPERATIONS TO FORM EARTH BANKED SLURRY LAGOON AND LAYING OF CONCRETE RAILWAY SLEEPERS TO FORM COW TRACK ACROSS LAND.
HODDER BANK FARM DUNSOP ROAD WHITEWELL LANCASHIRE**

Thank you for consulting with us on the above application which we received on the 26 July 2012.

We object to the application as submitted because the risks to groundwater from the development are unacceptable. The applicant has not supplied adequate information to demonstrate that the risks posed to groundwater can be satisfactorily managed. We recommend that planning permission should be refused on this basis in accordance with the precautionary principle.

Reasons

To ensure that the proposal does not pose an unacceptable risk to the water environment.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 109 states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of water pollution.

Our approach to groundwater protection is set out in 'Groundwater Protection: Principles and Practice' (consultation draft 2011 - final version due July 2012). In implementing the position statement in this guidance we will oppose development proposals that may pollute groundwater especially where the risks of pollution is high and the groundwater asset is of high value. We seek to enable development by ensuring that applicants provide adequate information to demonstrate that the risks posed by development to groundwater can be satisfactorily managed. In this instance the applicant has failed to provide this information.

Overcoming our objection

To overcome our objection the applicant will need to submit to yourselves:

- permeability test results for the material with which it is proposed to line the lagoon. These tests should confirm that the material meets the requirement of a permeability of 0.000001mm per second or less. CIRIA Report No.126: Farm Waste Storage: Guidelines for construction suggests that soil tests should be carried out in at least 5 locations to demonstrate any variability in ground conditions across the site.
- site investigation information demonstrating that the impermeable material is present to a depth of at least 1m below the base of the proposed lagoon.

The applicant should refer to the following documents for guidance on the requirements of The Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations 2010 (SSAFO):

- Fact sheet 5 - Earth bank slurry stores and tanks
 - Soil Suitability and Testing for Earth Lined Slurry Lagoons
- The documents are available to download from our website at
<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/sectors/118798.aspx>

We request to be re-consulted once the above information has been submitted to yourselves.

Yours faithfully

Miss Jilly Dixon
Planning Officer - Sustainable Places

Direct dial 01768 215789

E-mail nwnorthplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk