

## MINUTES

Date: 5.30pm, Wednesday, 1 March 2023

Wednesday, 1 March 2023 at 5:30pm	Facilitated By:	Susan McNair (Currie)
Online via Zoom	Note Taker:	Jenny Tran (Currie)

### ATTENDEES

Community: Tony O'Hara (TOH), Vernadette Dickson (VD)

City of Casey: Paul McGrath (PM)

EPA: Bianca Sigismundi (BS), Adele Shalevski (AS)

Veolia: Steven Marshall (SM), Chris Watkins (CW), Lachlan James (LJ)

### APOLOGIES

John Theodoridis

### FACILITATOR

Susan McNair (SMc)

**Background materials:** December meeting minutes

### GLOSSARY

FRV	Fire Rescue Victoria
EPA	Environment Protection Authority Victoria
HRL	Hallam Road Landfill
TRL	Taylor Road Landfill
MERC	Municipal/metropolitan emergency response controller

### 5:30pm WELCOME AND AGENDA (Facilitator)

SMc welcomed and introduced everyone and ran through the schedule for the meeting. SMc shared the link to the [Veolia Hampton Park Landfill webpage](#) which hosts the CRG meeting minutes.

### 5:35pm GOVERNANCE (Facilitator)

Previous meeting minutes and actions

- 2023 meetings dates have been confirmed and shared in the Dec meeting minutes and via email.
- LJ addressed the odour management and previous questions regarding contouring to channel gas.
  - LJ confirmed contouring to channel gas is not an appropriate mechanism under the Act which requires management of landfill gas at the site source.

### 5:45pm VEOLIA – COMPANY UPDATE (Steven Marshall, General Manager – Resource Recovery – Vic, Veolia)

SM updated the CRG on an incident at Taylors Road Landfill which had generated some questions. He noted this was not a Taylors Road CRG meeting, but acknowledged the interest of community members:

- Veolia noticed a small amount of steam on site and notified Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) and EPA.
- Veolia closed the site to the public and handed the control over to FRV.
- A small hot spot just below the surface of the waste was found but didn't flare up.
- FRV had onsite air quality going on at the time and immediately backfilled the area with clay.
- Veolia & FRV also notified WorkSafe of a potential incident and WorkSafe chose not to attend.
- EPA arrived on site a few hours after and Veolia met with EPA and FRV.
- FRV scientists investigated and monitored within the perimeter of the facility, over the top of the spot and the surrounding roads, and determined no immediate risk to anyone at Veolia or outside the facility.
- FRV handed control of the site back to Veolia.
- Veolia has continued to work with statutory authorities to ensure that there's nothing major going under the ground.
- Veolia has done several rounds of investigations and has continuous monitoring going on in the facility. No concerns have been triggered.
- Veolia made phone calls to those residents who are immediately closest to the site but the broader community message was not required by the municipal emergency response controller (MERC)/FRV/WorkSafe due to no risk identified at the time.

VD asked about the EPA notice letter to the community about the incident and EPA's position.

BS explained that despite the very minimal risk off site, EPA wanted the community to be aware in case they had questions, comments or saw anything.

SM showed the location of the hot spot on the map.

SM outlined the monitoring process of the hot spot.

- Monitors were set up both immediately in the area and the broader perimeter around the facility. Nothing has been noted to date.
- The next stage will be installing some temperature probes through the entire cell to see if there's anything going on underground. The findings will determine the next steps.
- It's an ongoing process and Veolia will keep liaising regularly with FRV and WorkSafe in the matter, and pass any of that information to EPA.

VD sought more information about the health risk and fire risk associated with the TLR site.

SM explained that the TRL and HRL take different materials and therefore act in different ways and pose different risks.

- TRL contains a lot of soil and soil can be used to put out fire at this site if that happens. But

there's other materials in this site that can react with different things such as water.

- HRL contains waste that is potentially more flammable.

LJ added that Veolia has been working closely with the MERC on the development of an emergency response and management plan in preparation for the worst case scenario.

### 5:50pm SITE UPDATE (Chris Watkins, Operations Manager – Hallam & Taylors Road, Veolia) – see Appendix A for presentation slides

CW showed a map of the site with cells 12, 13 and 14b – see page 8.

- 14b is the new cell.
- Cell 13 space is completely exhausted. An intermediate cover was pushed out for at least half a meter thick using clay rich soil.
- Close to run out of room in cell 12.
- Cell 14: Currently in the process of getting an auditor's report. The report will then go to EPA for approval and license amendment.

VD asked when Veolia can start putting rubbish in cell 14 and when this will happen?

CW: As soon as we have approval and the license is amended by EPA Expect to get the auditor's report by the end of the week then send off to EPA.

BS noted that EPA has 20 days to look at the auditor's report then 42 days to amend the license.

CW provided an update on other operations of the site.

- Some work was done to the road system around the wheel wash.
- All the litter nets were moved onto the edge of cell 13 in advance of 14.
- EPA has asked for some further information to make an assessment on the contour and Veolia is running through the process.

VD asked if the top north section the cell 14b would be the last one.

CW confirmed the location of the last cell (cell 15) and where it is on the map. CW confirmed that the intermediate cover on cell 13 is two-thirds completed and Veolia is going to prioritise the western end of cell 13.

### 6:05pm ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE (Lachlan James, Veolia)

Complaint data

- LJ showed a graph of Hallam Road Landfill complaint data between the period of Sep 21 – Feb 23 and noted an improvement – see page 10.

Landfill gas field overview

- LJ showed a map photo of the landfill gas field – see page 11.
- Veolia contracted the management of gas to a specialist who runs the power plants. They visit every gas well once a month, and re-adjust the extraction and assess the condition of each well.
- LJ explained the lines and dots on the map and talked through the flow lines and fire lines, many of which are underground.
- LMS(the gas specialist) has been advised to immediately proceed with installing the next set of vertical gas wells. The construction is likely to take place in late March with a drill rig arriving early April. Veolia will reach out to CRG about when they drill these wells. It will only happen during daytime hours. There might be some odour associated but nothing is left venting overnight.
- The vertical gas wells are much more efficient way to extract gas and it's hoped to improve on site performance around landfill gas odour.
- VD asked if there would be any impact if it rains or is postponed.
- LJ explained that the drill rig can be moved around as long as it's safe to work. But if it becomes very slippery and they can't get a good footing on the drill rig then they will have to push backwards but there is a huge expense of moving these drill rigs onto the site.

### Cell 14B – Landfill Gas Management

- LJ talk through the fill plan for cell 14b and the landfill gas controls that Veolia is going to put in place – see page 13.
- There are horizontal gas wells in every single lift. T wells are put along the North and North East of the cell footprint to maintain some form of extraction on the edge of the cell. Vertical wells will be installed on the top edge (the batters). This methodology has been presented to the auditor and comments have been given and adopted.
- VD and TOH said that the plan is very well mapped out and they are happy with it.

### Leachate Management Update

- LJ showed a graph of leachate discharge summary all years from 2008 to 2023 – see slide 9.
- Discharged two ponds so far this year, in addition to some leachate which was transferred to TRL
- Veolia no longer has approval to transfer leachate to TRL but have submitted an application to EPA to get advice on the appropriate approval mechanism. Veolia has been waiting a while for this advice.
- Veolia entered a new service agreement for the maintenance of the ‘airwell’ pumps, and for the maintenance of leachate pond aerators.
- VD asked why the leachate is transferred from one site to the other.
- LJ explained that it is due to limitations on the treatment. All the ponds are either always filled up or being treated and there is a certain threshold for the ammonia. There are empty ponds at TRL that can be used to treat the leachate and then discharge to sewer at TRL. Leachate at HRL is treated in the same way as TLR’s (aeration) to address the ammonia but needs EPA approval.

### Improvement Notice – Dust and sediment

- Veolia has received two improvement notices, one relating to dust and sediment and the other relating to leachate management – see page 15.
- Veolia has engaged a third party to undertake the assessment of the dust and sediment controls Veolia has in place.
- Veolia has also engaged with the auditor and has until 19 March to provide a report to EPA

### Improvement Notice – Leachate

- Veolia has received a notice relating to the leachate in the HRL – see slide 11.

**6:15pm EPA UPDATE – see [Appendix B](#) for presentation slides.**

### Complaint reports

- Showing a downward trend and steady around 1-2 report(s) per day

BS talked through EPA’s involvement on site – see page 19.

VD noted a lot of actions have been taken by EPA and sought more information on how it came about. LJ acknowledged the different opinions on compliance between Veolia and EPA, the role of EPA as an environmental regulator, and the responsibility of Veolia in complying. Veolia believed it has complied with the leachate management notice and have asked EPA for more information on why EPA believed Veolia hasn’t complied. When a non-compliant issue is communicated with Veolia, they would try to address it as quickly as possible.

TOH noted Veolia’s efforts in communicating issues with the community in a timely manner.

TOH asked a question about the contour change – is that increasing/not increasing the height of the contour or smoothing of the contour?

LJ answered that Veolia is not increasing the overall height and it will end up with a shallower gradient across the top, a steeper batter that is in the backfield and clean soil on top of that. A neater finish than

the original plan.

VD asked if cell 13 will be accepting more waste.

LJ and CW explained that it depends on stages. Veolia is working through the requirements for contour change.

The contour amendment change will cover not just cell 13 but future contours at 15 too

**6:25pm OTHER BUSINESS**

CW addressed TOH’s question about the number of fires that have occurred at HRL and transfer station over the past years. CW recalled four separate fire events over the last seven years he has been on site. All of these fires were notified clearly. One was at the transfer station where there was some waste in the pit caught fire. The other three ruled very minor issues with uncertain causes, but probably associated with batteries.

LJ explained the license requirement that requires Veolia to notify EPA if they do have a fire.

**Stakeholder engagement role**

- Veolia is recruiting a stakeholder engagement role as they recognise the importance of engagement to the business.

**CRG members recruitment**

- Attendees were asked to share the opportunity to join the CRGs with others in their networks and communities, and pass contact details of potential CRG members to Currie

**Action:** Currie to reach out to PM for a chat about recruitment

**Action:** CRG members to share the CRG opportunity with their networks and pass contact details of potential CRG members to Currie.

**MEETING CLOSED 6:30pm**

**ACTION TRACKER**

Item	Action	Who	Due
1	Currie to reach out to Paul for a chat about recruitment	Currie	May
2	CRG members to share the CRG opportunity with their networks and pass contact details of potential CRG members to Currie	CRG members	May
3	Next meeting: 7 June (in person)	Currie & Veolia	7 June



# APPENDIX A – Veolia Update

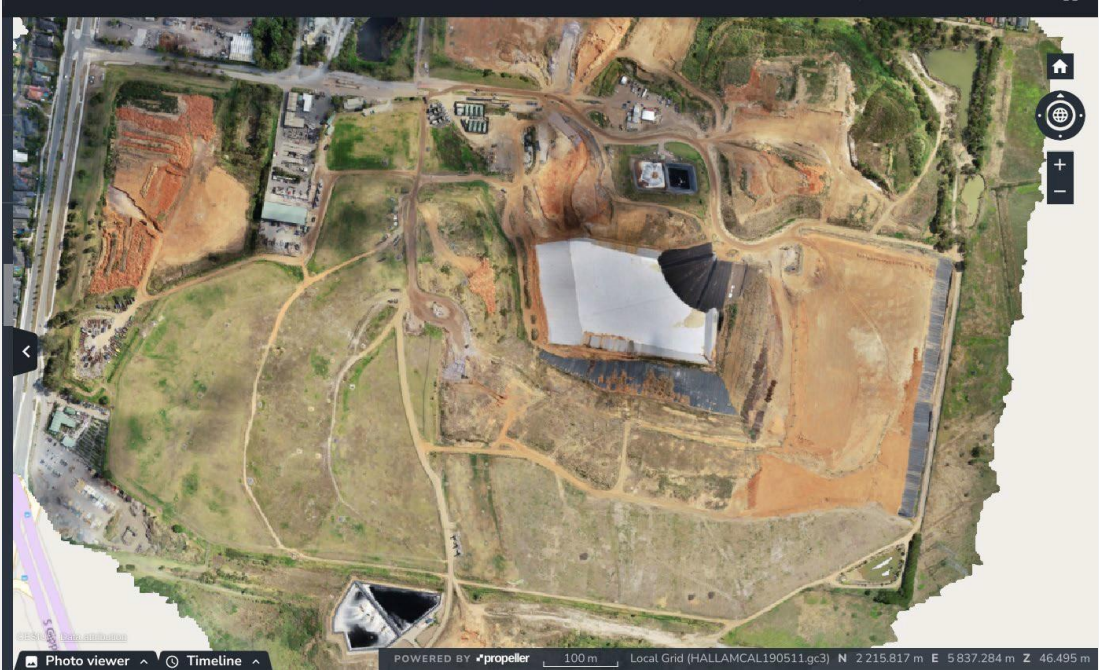


## Hallam Road Landfill CRG Veolia Update - March 202

# Taylor's Road Landfill Incident



# General Site Update



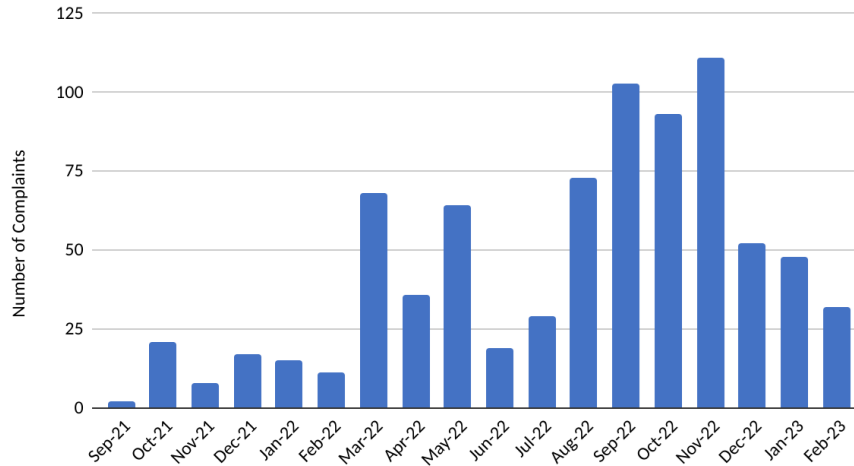


# Cell 14B Update



# Complaint Data

Hallam Road Landfill Complaint Data

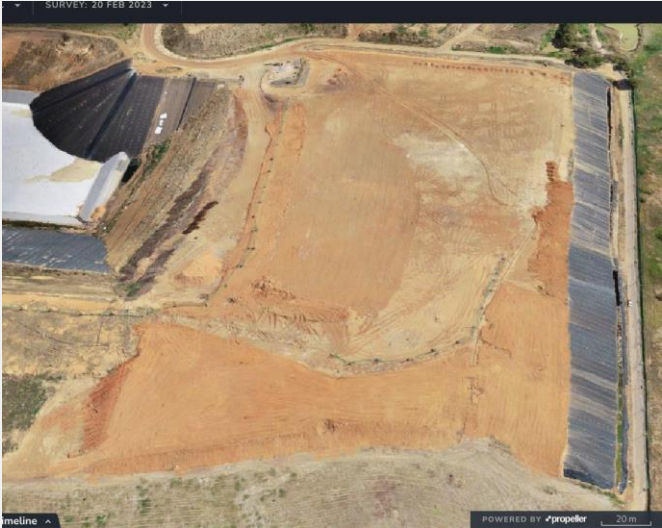


**Note:** The Feb-23 data is of 23 February 2023. There is a lag in receiving complaint data that is logged in the EPA Portal, rather than calling the EPA hotline.



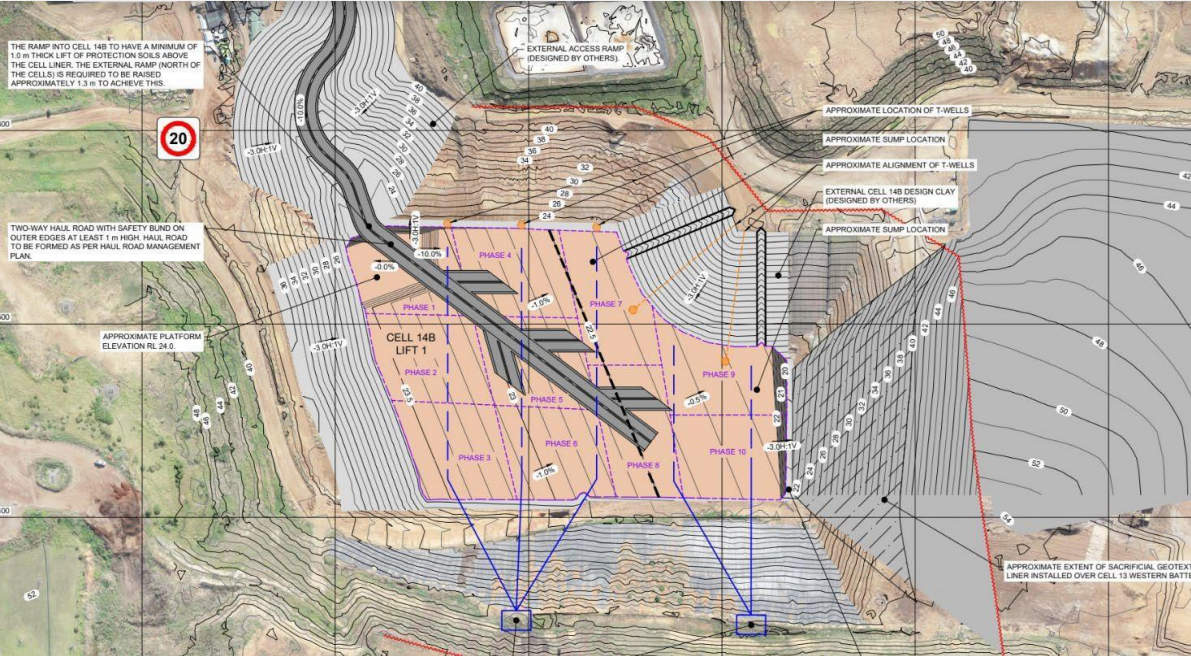


# Landfill Gas - Cell 13 Update





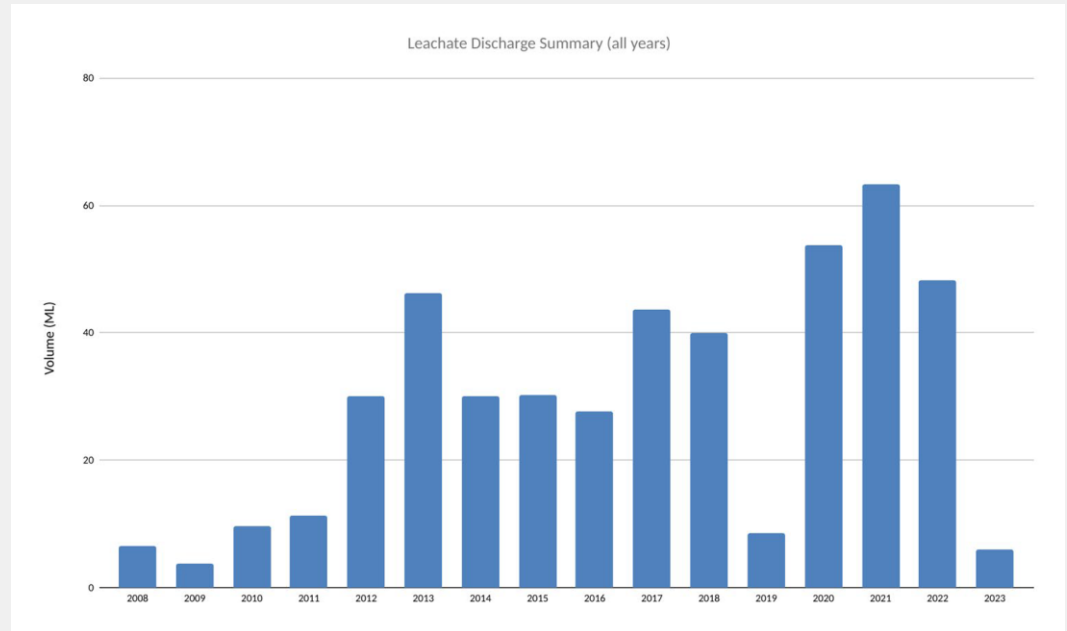
# Cell 14B - Landfill Gas Management



Nom de la présentation

# Leachate Management Update

- Discharged two ponds so far this year, in addition to some leachate with was transferred to Taylors Road Landfill.
- We no longer have approval to transfer leachate to Taylors Road Landfill, but have submitted an application to EPA so we can get advice of the appropriate approval mechanism. We have been waiting a while for this advice.
- Entered a new service agreement for the maintenance of the 'airwell' pumps.
- Entered a new service agreement for the maintenance of leachate pond aerators.



# Improvement Notice - Dust & Sediment

You (Veolia) are required to:

1. By 12/03/23 you must install and implement controls to ensure no dust is discharged beyond the boundaries of your premises, so far as reasonably practicable.
2. By 12/03/23 you must install and implement controls to ensure no waste including sediment is discharged beyond the boundary of your premises via vehicle movement, so far as reasonably practicable.

You (Veolia) must report to the EPA:

R1. By 19/03/23 you must in writing to the authorised officer, provide a report that specifies how you have achieved compliance with the notice requirements and is signed by your managing director, most senior executive, or a person authorised to speak on behalf of the notice recipient.



# Improvement Notice - Leachate

You (Veolia) are required to:

1. By 26/04/23 you must update the 'Hallam Road Landfill - Leachate Management Plan', dated August 2021, and have this verified by an EPA appointed Environmental Auditor, to ensure all management procedures included in the plan are appropriate to address the risks of harm to human health and the environment related to leachate management associated with the landfilling activities conducted at the premises...
2. By 26/04/23 you must investigate the status of leachate sumps 13P-1 (13E) and 14A, and develop a plan to repair or replace said sumps (including expected timeframes) to a standard that enables compliance with licence conditions OL\_L4.1 and OL\_L4.2.1.
3. By 17/05/23 you must implement the updated and Auditor verified Leachate Management Plan, and any subsequent versions thereof, referred to in requirement 1 of this notice.

There are several additional reporting requirements.



# APPENDIX B – EPA Update



## Hallam Road Landfill Community Reference Group

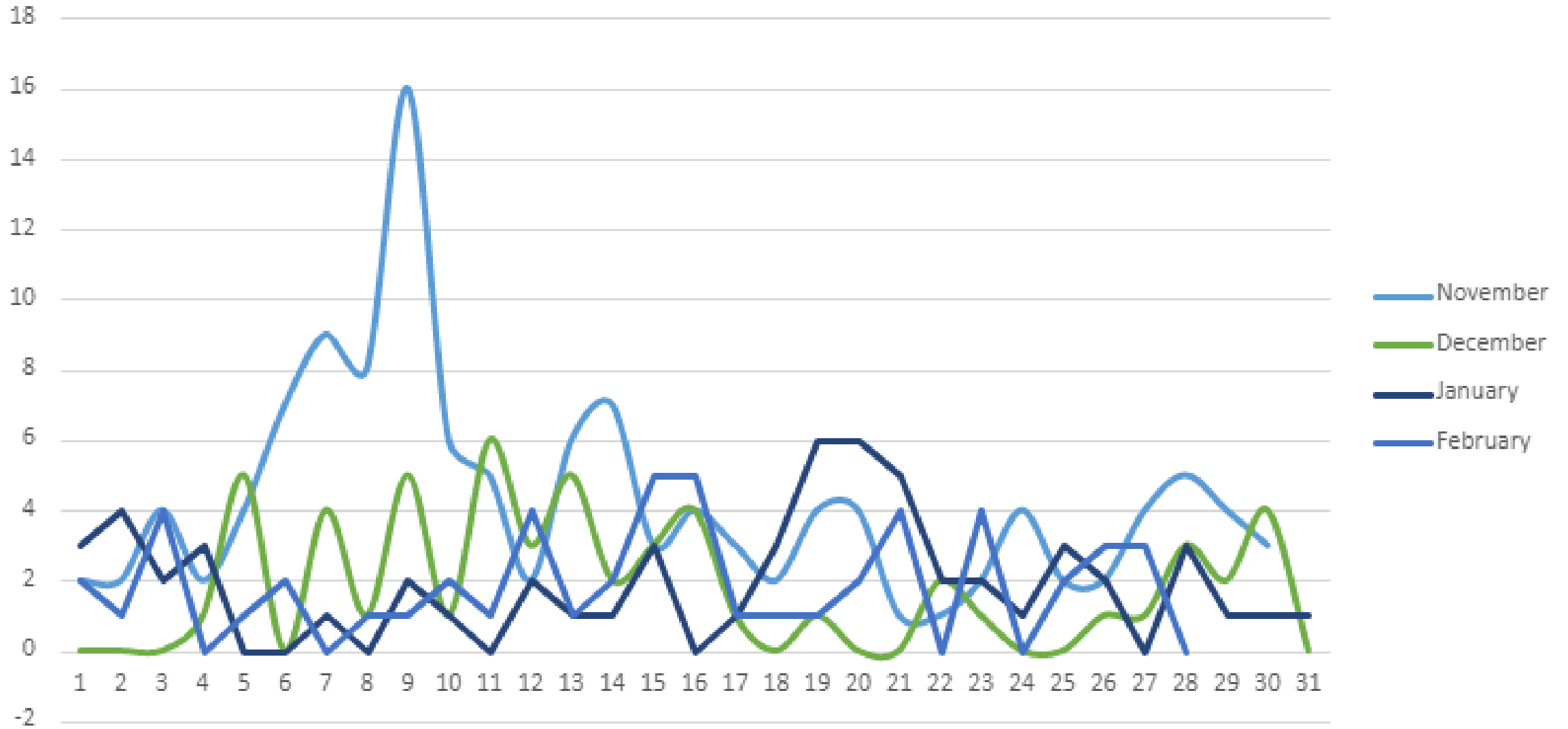
1 March 2023



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# Hallam Rd Landfill



# EPA Update

1. 18 November 2022 Inspection:
  - 18 November 2022- Notice compliance check
  - Notice deemed non compliant
  - Further Improvement Notice issued- Dust (1/2/23)
2. 24 November 2022 Inspection:
  - Follow up to leachate level idereports
3. 15 December 2022 Permission Compliance Assessment:
  - Compliance Advice issued
  - Information Gathering Notice issued (23/12/22 amended on 12/1/23)
  - Improvement Notice Issued - Leachate management
  - Continue to focus on gas extraction
4. Enforcement
5. Permissions
  - Leachate transfer
  - Contour amendment
  - Cell 14 approval

Assess Audit Construction Report- 20 days

**Amend the current Operating Licence to include Cell 14 and any conditions- 42 days**







# Questions