

Press release: Colson Transport pay £70,000 for violating environmental permit

A company director and his company have been sentenced to fines of £38,000 and costs of £33,000 in Nottingham Magistrates Court today after breaching conditions of an environmental permit over a 19 month period. The breaches led to a significant impact on the lives of local residents.

Ryan Colson, of Westfield Avenue, Heanor, Derbyshire, is the director of Colson Transport Limited, a waste transfer company on Bulwell Lane in Old Basford, Nottingham. Colson and his company Colson Transport Ltd took over the site from the previous operators and the volume of waste passing through the site increased significantly. This led to dust escaping from the site and odour problems developed. This had a significant impact on the lives of the local residents, businesses and the primary school, located close to the site.

Tim Pole, Prosecution Counsel on behalf of the Environment Agency, told the court that the failure to comply with the environmental permit and storing waste on site in inappropriate ways led to the significant impact on the community. In addition, Mr Colson had stored combustible waste on site. The consequences of a fire on site would have reached beyond the company itself, and could have impacted on other businesses as well as a primary school situated nearby.

The Court was told that the nature, number and frequency of the complaints to the Environment Agency demonstrated the negative impact that the Mr Colson's poor management of the site had on the lives of local residents.

Colson Transport Ltd and its owner Mr Colson had a history of non-compliance and had received a written warning from the Environment Agency prior to the commencement of the Prosecution However Mr Colson failed to consistently operate the site in compliance with the Permit.

Mr Colson and Colson Transport Ltd cooperated with the investigation and showed evidence of taking steps to remedy the problems on site. There was investment of approximately £350,000 into the site and there was an acceptance of responsibility.

In sentencing the case District Judge Spruce found that the local residents had suffered because of the dust and odour problems emanating from the site, but there was no finding by District Judge Spruce that this created a risk to human health. The length of time that the breaches spanned was an aggravating feature and as was the history of non-compliance. However in mitigation the District Judge had noted the character references provided and found that Colson Transport limited was a responsible waste management operation. The District Judge found that there was no financial gain to Colson Transport

Limited or to Ryan Colson as a result of the permit breaches.

Commenting after the hearing, Environment Officer Everal Burrell said:

The Environment Agency works hard to protect people and the environment while supporting the vast majority of businesses that operate responsibly. This case demonstrates that we will take action against those who do not operate their business within the confines of relevant regulations.

We hope this case will serve as an example and a warning for other operators to take their responsibilities seriously. We are determined to take actions against those who don't.

ENDS

World news story: British scientists participated in a seminar in Argentina

Scientists from different British universities, Argentine researchers and representatives of the organizing agencies took part this week in a seminar organized jointly by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) from the UK, and the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) of Argentina.

The workshop, which enabled face-to-face interaction as well as the development of new research partnerships between the UK and Argentina, provided tools to understand the key challenges posed by antimicrobial resistance in Argentine agriculture and its impact on the spread of antimicrobial resistance to the environment.

The workshop included field visits to agricultural facilities to provide some real context to the key challenges of antimicrobial resistance in Argentina's agricultural sector and environment.

This visit takes place in the framework of the recent scientific cooperation agreement signed by the Department of Health from both countries, whereby the United Kingdom will contribute 5 million pounds to a bilateral cooperation programme with Argentina focusing on research in support of the fight against antimicrobial resistance in agriculture and its impact on the environment.

Antimicrobial resistance

Antimicrobial resistance occurs when microbes, including bacteria, viruses,

fungi, and parasites, survive exposure to drugs, including antibiotics, that would normally kill them. This leaves us unarmed to treat what we might call common infections.

Notice: LN8 2AP, Crockway Farms Limited: environmental permit issued

The Environment Agency publish permits that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the permit and decision document for:

- Operator name: Crockway Farms Limited
 - Installation name: Caenby Cliff Farm – Danby Pig Unit
 - Permit number: EPR/NP3231JC/V002
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Research and analysis: African swine fever in wild boar in Belgium

Updated: Added updated outbreak assessment (27 September 2018).

Preliminary and updated outbreak assessments for African swine fever in wild boar in the Luxembourg region, Belgium.

Corporate report: Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM): 14th annual report, 2017 to 2018

This report sets out CoRWM's advice to the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and to the devolved administrations from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. It also summarises the work carried out by the committee over the year.