

Introduction

Ballynagran Landfill is aware that there has been an increase in odour complaints over the past number of weeks and are anxious to ensure that this does not continue.

Likely cause

There is no one simple answer as to why there could be an increase in odour complaints at the moment. On-site operations remain the same as always i.e. waste acceptance, placement, compaction, covering and gas extraction and utilisation/flaring. On-site identifiable sources of odour are no more obvious than usual.

Two EPA site visits in December found Ballynagran to be in compliance with the licence in relation to odours. However, Faint, Intermittent odours have been detected by EPA and Ballynagran staff at times.

We believe that the reason for the increase in complaints is due to the very wet November and beginning of December. This may have caused gas to be generated quicker than usual within recently deposited waste. As described below gas wells are normally only installed when waste placement has reached full height, but this is being accelerated to reduce complaints.

Actions

The following four actions i.e. Capping, Surveys, Gas Trenches and Gas wells/flaring are the usual methods of managing gas on-site which have been successfully used in the past at Ballynagran and other landfill sites. It is proposed to bring forward these works as set out below.

1. Intermediate capping (300mm of impermeable soil) of all areas not currently used for waste deposition. This commenced 22/12/12 and is ongoing. The majority of this area will be completed by 15/01/26.
2. FID Surveys to detect potential odour sources and remediation of any areas detected.
3. Installation of additional gas extraction trenches to extract and utilise/flare the gas. Six new trenches have been installed since 22/12/25. This process will continue to be carried out for the next two weeks based on the findings of the FID surveys.
4. Installation of new gas extraction wells. Normally gas wells are drilled once waste has reached its final height i.e. approx. 20m. However, due to the increase in complaints we have brought forward the installation of these wells. The drill rig will be onsite next week w/c 12/01/26. Ten new gas wells will be installed in Cell 15 to a depth of approx. 10m (the depth of waste in place). These new wells will be connected to the gas collection/flaring system as they are installed. This work should be completed by 21/01/26.

We are confident that the combination of the above four actions will reduce the number of complaints and will ensure continued compliance with the licence.