

EmP12 – Potential Leachate Migration from Landfill

What needs to be done?

The following actions need to be taken when there is an indication that there is possible contamination from leachate migration:

1. If groundwater sample analyses indicate potential leachate migration, the responsible manager should be informed
 2. The responsible manager should assess the quality of the groundwater sample analysis and monitor the trends in the key parameters (such as conductivity, chloride ions and ammonium)
 3. The results of any groundwater sampling undertaken ‘upstream’ of the landfill site, along with any other relevant activities which were being undertaken around the time of sampling (eg effluent spreading on nearby farms) should be considered to ascertain whether there are any other potential causes for the contamination
 4. Check the levels of leachate and groundwater in all boreholes within and beyond the site perimeter to ensure that there is a negative hydrostatic head
 5. Repeat the sampling and testing as soon as reasonably practicable, to ascertain whether the situation persists or whether the sample may have been contaminated
 6. In the event of further groundwater monitoring results showing contamination which may have resulted from the landfill, the licence/permit holder must submit to the Environment Agency, a scheme of corrective action within the required timescale. The corrective action scheme needs to include details of increased frequency of monitoring and details to protect groundwater from further contamination
 7. The responsible manager should formally record the details and report, as necessary, using the appropriate forms, with circulation to all relevant individuals and authorities.
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Telephone numbers:

Emergency services:

Environment Agency:

Responsible manager:

Managing director:

Geotechnical engineer/advisor:

Associated documentation

Forms

→ EF03 – Internal Communication

→ EF15 – Incident Investigation

