



Date 15th December 2021

Dear Neighbour

**Ref: Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015**

I am writing to businesses in our local community to provide information with regard to our safety procedures in accordance with the above Regulations.

Veolia's Incineration Plant on Bridges Road has operated successfully since 1990 and falls under the above Regulations as an upper-tier COMAH site.

As part of these Regulations, the site has notified the Competent Authority under Regulation 6 and has submitted a Safety Report under Regulation 9. The site also has a duty under Regulation 18 to inform those within its Public Information Zone (PIZ) of the potential major accident hazards which could occur at the site, how they are likely to affect you and what to do in the event of an emergency.

The purpose of this communication is to fulfill our obligations under regulation 18 and I kindly request that you communicate the contents of this letter appropriately. **Included with this letter is a handy card that summarises how you will be informed of an emergency, what the off-site effects may be, and what actions you should take. It may be prudent to display this card in a prominent place.**

Safety is an absolute priority at Veolia and we ensure all practicable steps are taken to prevent accidents or incidents of any type. The site handles and stores hazardous chemical materials for incineration, the quantities of which means that the site is subject to Upper-Tier COMAH Regulations. Although studies of the off-site effects of our chemical hazards identify that certain scenarios could develop in extreme circumstances, these circumstances are very unlikely to develop and should not be a cause of undue concern.

Please be assured that the site has a well developed safety management system to control these hazards, including a detailed on-site emergency response plan. Regular liaison is undertaken with the relevant authorities including HSE, EA, Emergency Services and Local Authority Emergency Planners. In accordance with COMAH Regulations, an off-site Emergency Plan has also been developed in partnership with these agencies.

The first response to a major accident would be to activate the site alarm.



You will need to ensure that you and your employees are aware of the potential issues and what action to take should our site alarm sound.

**To help recognise our alarm amongst others in this area, we test the alarm every Wednesday at midday and it is a wailing air-raid style alarm. If the alarm sounds for more than 30 seconds at this time then it should be treated as a genuine emergency.**

A number of trained staff are on site 24/7 who are able to carry out basic emergency response duties such as chemical spill containment and clean-up or extinguishing minor fires. In addition, the local County Emergency Services will provide support if required.

The main emergency issues to consider under COMAH would be an on-site fire with possible toxic components in the plume, or generation of a hazardous gas cloud of, for example, hydrochloric acid (HCl). Should an accident occur which has the potential for off-site effects, we will make contact with your organisation to keep you informed. We have local telephone numbers as part of our off-site emergency plan agreed with the County Council. If a major accident occurs you will be informed of the nature of the event and what action to take. **If you can hear our site alarm initial actions would be for employees to remain indoors with windows closed and tune in to local radio (e.g. BBC Radio Merseyside) for further information.** Either Veolia or the emergency services will advise you whether evacuation is necessary. Please follow any instructions given to allow emergency plans to progress smoothly.

Should an accident occur and you have not been contacted, you can telephone our Site Monitoring Centre on 0330 024 0396. If this line is busy, our Communications Team can be contacted on 0207 812 5028 to obtain information. The site does not have an 'all clear' siren, therefore once the emergency has subsided you will be contacted again by Veolia or the emergency services to confirm this.

The Veolia Bridges Road site is designated by HSE as part of a 'domino group' of establishments that share site hazard information due to the increased likelihood or consequence of a major accident due to the proximity of these neighbouring establishments and the dangerous substances present there.

Domino group establishments within the Veolia Bridges Road Land Use Planning consultation distance are:

- Essar, Stanlow Manufacturing Complex
- Argent Oil Terminal, Bridges Road
- Avanti Gas, Britannia Road
- Innospec, Innospec Manufacturing Park, Oil Sites Road

Finally I wish to re-emphasise that the contents of this letter do not represent any increased likelihood of a major accident occurring now compared to the past. The details provided aim to inform our neighbours



of the actions to take should a major accident occur, although most accident scenarios considered have little or no potential for off-site impact.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

If you would like to gain more information, visit our facility or view our safety report/emergency plans, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Phelan', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Dave Phelan  
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