

**Environmental Protection UK
Land Quality Committee Meeting**

23 February 2012 Stephenson Harwood offices, London

Attendees	
David Rudland (DR) – Chair	Swindon Borough Council
Christopher Fry	West Midlands Division / Independent member
Ian Grant	Newzeeye
Joanne Kwan	CIRIA
Trevor Howard (TH)	Environment Agency (EA)
Malcolm Brown	British Geological Survey / East Midlands Division
Mike Way	WPA Consultants
Nick Marks (NM)	London Borough of Newham Council
Rachael Davies (by phone link)	Flintshire County Council
Apologies	
Ann Barker	Yorkshire Division / Bradford MDC
Iain McLellan	Scottish Division / Environmental Protection UK (EPUK)
Graham Whitaker	National House Building Council (NHBC)
Rob Bell	Contaminated Land Bulletin
Andrew Wiseman – Vice Chair	Stephenson Harwood
Andrew Hursthouse	Scottish Division / University of West Scotland
Julian Trick	East Midlands Division / British Geological Survey (BGS)
Felix Oku	South East Division / Tower Hamlets Borough Council
Mary Harris	Independent member
John Naylor (JN)	Ground Gas Solutions
Jane Light (JL)	South West Division

1	Welcome and Apologies
1.1	The above apologies were noted.
2	Minutes and Matters Arising from the Last Meeting
2.1	<p>The draft minutes from 20 October 2011 had the following typos noted but were otherwise agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para 3.1 for GW3 read GP3 <p>Update regarding workshop at BGS on landfill gas (held jointly with Sufalnet): a successful event with 61 attendees.</p>
3	Outcome of EGM in January – David Rudland
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPUK will be wound up as a staffed organisation with all the staff gone by 31 March. However the Board of Trustees will remain and EPUK will continue as a voluntary organisation. • The Board have responsibilities for the EPUK 'brand' which should not be used without their consent. • Andrew Wallace is the caretaker Chief Executive until end of March • The Board of Trustees will make a decision about membership and probably nominal fees at the next meeting on 6 March. Malcolm Brown raised the potential problem that if invoices weren't raised for the new financial year, EPUK may disappear off member organisations' 'radar' making collection of any reduced fees more difficult. Action: Christopher Fry to take this up with the Board of Trustees • The EPUK web site is paid up until 31 March with a possibility of it continuing for a further six months. • 'Live' campaigns are being handed over to another organisation – 'Client Earth' • EPUK archives (which date back to the 19th Century are being taken over by the Wellcome Trust which will make them available for research once they are catalogued. • The EPUK Noise and Air committees will continue on a voluntary basis.
3.2	General information – David Rudland

	The new head of the contaminated land branch at DEFRA is Dr Morwenna Carrington. She has some experience of contaminated land because of her involvement with the Soil Framework Directive draft. Action: David Rudland to contact Dr Carrington on behalf of EPUK
4	Scope of LQC Activity
4.1	Future Meetings: The decision made in October to meet twice a year in London & Birmingham alternately was confirmed. See below for details of next meeting.
4.2	Agreed that there would need to be a single point of contact. Initially, this would be David Rudland who volunteered to continue as Chair, however support would be needed (probably a vice-chair and secretary).
4.3	Communications. This was seen as a key issue. A forum for communication and information exchange was needed. Ian Grant suggested a 'Google Group' could be set up. Action: David Rudland to investigate
4.4	EPUK web site. Whilst the current EPUK web site would remain in place for a limited time, it would not be updated. David Rudland has had a volunteer (Robin Lancefield) who has some skills in this and has offered to assist. See below in 'Membership'. Joanne suggested CIRIA could host a LQC web page which could be linked back to the EPUK web site. This was a possibility but would depend on the continuing existence of an EPUK web site which is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. Mike Way also offered to host a website and some practical admin support. Action: David Rudland to investigate the possibility with Joanne and Mike.
4.5	Conferences: Both Joanne and Ian offered 'Joint Hosting' for existing and proposed conferences. Conference fees would go to the hosting organisation (CIRIA of Brownfield Briefing) there could be reduced fees for EPUK members and an opportunity for EPUK fundraising via new members. Malcolm Brown offered the possibility of a conference location at BGS but was not in a position to act as administrator since he will be leaving BGS in March. Agreed that although this was a good idea the LQC would have to adjust to the new way of working before taking on additional tasks. Action: Christopher Fry to raise this at the Trustees meeting on 6 March
4.6	Horizon Scanning The departure of head office staff has removed the single point of contact for the collection and dissemination of news and forthcoming consultations. Trevor Howard says he uses a "news aggregator" on a weekly basis to keep up to date. There was also the possibility of closer links with groups with similar interests such as SAGTA. Action: David Rudland to get further information from Trevor
5	Policy & Legislation
5.1	<u>Revision to Statutory Guidance</u> Guidance, regulations and the results of the consultation are now available in the DEFRA web-site CIEH is apparently unhappy about the new stat guidance and seems to be seeking to get it overturned. As EPUK had two reps on DEFRA's 'inner circle' of consultees for the guidance, it was felt that whilst far from perfect this was the best we were going to get and we would work with what we have got.
5.2	<u>Feedback from meetings.</u> Trevor Howard Reported that the better regulation forum meeting has been postponed to next week. It is investigating a 3 rd party auditor role in contaminated land using the Australian model. Information tabled on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Contaminated land Capital Grants Programme (funding on a par with last year likely but not confirmed). Funding remains skewed towards remediation opposed to investigation. The EA are flagging potential problems with this approach i.e. a forthcoming lack of remediation projects coming through with DEFRA. Wales has no contaminated land capital programme but the Welsh government may support projects on an ad-hoc basis. • Groundwater Protection Principles & Practice GP3 EA Pollution Prevention Guidance PPG 27 on fuel storage tanks has been published.

	<p>'Red tape Challenge': consultation on water regulation opened. EA expects to provide extensive comments.</p> <p>The EA will be starting on a 'hierarchy for environmental assessment levels' as the HSE is removing/ revising many occupational health levels on which the EA levels were based. Whilst this is probably of more interest to the EPUK Air committee, it may have implications for land. Note it's a very 'technical' document.</p> <p>The Industrial Emissions Directive has been amended. This has implications as 'Schedule A' permits require a contaminated land assessment on both granting and surrender of the permit. DEFRA will be consulting in March.</p> <p>Malcolm Brown</p> <p>DEFRA had let a contract to BGS to provide data on 'background' contamination in England (and soon to include Wales). It will include an assessment of bio-accessibility. The information is due to be provided to DEFRA shortly and will be published by them in due course.</p>
6	Conferences & Workshops
6.1	<p>6 March SAGTA BS10175 @ Milton Keynes</p> <p>15 April Brownfield Briefing Part IIa @ Leeds</p> <p>1 May Brownfield briefing Groundwater @ London</p>
7	Membership Update and Representative review
7.1	<p><u>Divisional Update</u></p> <p>W Midlands: Seminar on Environmental Law on 22nd March</p> <p>Scotland: Looking to set up a separate organisation bit to maintain links with EPUK. Requested that documents be circulated to EP (Scotland). Agreed</p> <p>LC/JG to contact NM, AW and TH to support EPUK on RTC.</p>
7.2	<p><u>Members</u></p> <p>David Rudland suggested accepting 3 new members:</p> <p>Robin Lancefield from Halcrow (who has offered to help with the web site)</p> <p>Louise Siddorn (Cotswold DC)</p> <p>Mark Holland (referred by Lisa Crews)</p> <p>Julian Trick will be attending on behalf of the BGS in future meetings</p> <p>Agreed.</p> <p>Action: David to circulate these minutes to them and to invite them to the next meeting</p> <p>Malcolm Brown will be leaving BGS shortly but will continue to attend LQC as rep for the East Midlands</p> <p>Agreed that members be accepted as delegates from the regional groups and report details from the LQC back to those groups.</p> <p>The meeting noted that Jane Light had retired from Weymouth and Portland Council and had tendered her resignation from LQC. David recorded thanks for her long service to LQC</p>
7.3	<p><u>Representatives for other forums</u></p> <p>National Brownfield Forum. Andrew Wiseman and Trevor Howard attend this with other hats on and have offered to report back to the LQC. No need to provide an additional representative.</p>
7.4	<p><u>Links to other groups</u></p> <p>Trevor Howard regularly attends SAGTA meetings (& Nick Marks occasionally attends). Ian Grant attends the quarterly meetings of the EIC on contaminated land. Trevor also attends the 'Better Regulation sub-group' and meetings of CIWM</p> <p>Action: Trevor, Nick & Ian to report back as necessary</p>
7.5	<p><u>Land Forum – Better Regulations</u></p> <p>TH to circulate the minutes from the meeting on 27th September.</p>
8	AOB
8.1	<p><u>Private Water Supply Regs</u></p> <p>Christopher Fry drew attention to the committee to these regulations which place duties on local authorities on assessing water quality of private water supplies. This will include an assessment of geology and contamination in the catchment area.</p>
8.2	<p><u>Date and venue of next meeting</u></p> <p>Birmingham 27 September at 14:30 at either EA offices in Solihull (near station) offered by Trevor Howard or in central Birmingham at a site which Joanne may be able to make available.</p>