

Cargill Community Update - Brooklyn

April 2013

History

Cargill operates a vegetable oil processing plant located at 425 Somerville Rd, Brooklyn (formerly West Footscray) on the corner of Holmwood Rd. Oilseed processing began on the site in the 1950's originally by Meggitts, before being purchased by Cargill in 1982. The facility primarily processes canola seed to produce crude degummed oil and protein meal.

There was an increase in odour complaints in early 2010 as well as a spot site visit from the EPA in June 2010 which found other environmental issues. Cargill engaged consultants The Odour Unit to review the installed system and make recommendations for improvement. The Odour Unit are Australia's leading consultant in the prevention of odour from industrial facilities and biofilters in particular

Cargill entered into an Enforceable Undertaking with the EPA in April 2011 as an alternative to court action to deliver environmental benefits beyond compliance. The enforceable undertaking will be in place til December 2014.

Odour Control System Audit

The Odour Unit have completed an initial system review of all installed odour control equipment and, as part of the requirements of the Enforceable Undertaking, will complete quarterly an odour control system audits. The first of these audits was conducted in March

this year. The results of all audits are forwarded to the EPA and acted upon by Cargill.

The last odour audit was conducted in February 2013. The findings from this audit were as follows;

- The Prep Building odour collection system was found to be working well and achieving low levels of odour inside the building. Odour capture at each of the process units was found to be effective, with no visual evidence of fugitive leakages from the processing units. The performance of the biofilter was not achieving the target odour level of 1,000 ou, almost certainly due to some drying out of the biofilter beds. This condition is likely to be caused by the failure of the Process Duct scrubber/humidifier to adequately saturate this airstream.
- The Solvent plant biofilter was found to be working well, achieving 98.8% efficiency and easily meeting the EPA target odour concentration of 1,000 ou. The reduction in inlet odour concentration was significant and confirms a need for servicing the Extraction Plant scrubber. The spatial airflow distribution through both cells was found to be satisfactory.

Odour Control System Changes Since September 2012

- Further improvements and changes made to the existing Extraction odour control system include:
- Odour scrubber system in extraction has been reviewed. PH transmitters have been updated and tighter controls have been introduced to the system.
- Further instrumentation has been placed on the wet scrubbers system in Prep to assist with managing the humidification of the preparation biofilter.
- Boiler room vents were closed to the outside.
- A project is underway that will capture fugitive emissions that were previously not identified.

Dust Reduction Program

Whilst Cargill is not a significant source of dust Cargill understands that this is an issue for the Brooklyn area and has implemented several programs to help reduce its dust emissions.

- A dustless spout has been installed for loading meal into trucks. This has significantly reduced the level of dust generated from loading trucks.
- Dust collectors installed for use during the processing of soybeans are now being used also when canola seeds are being received into the plant.

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