

Landfill Aftercare

Regulatory perspective



Landfill aftercare – regulatory issues

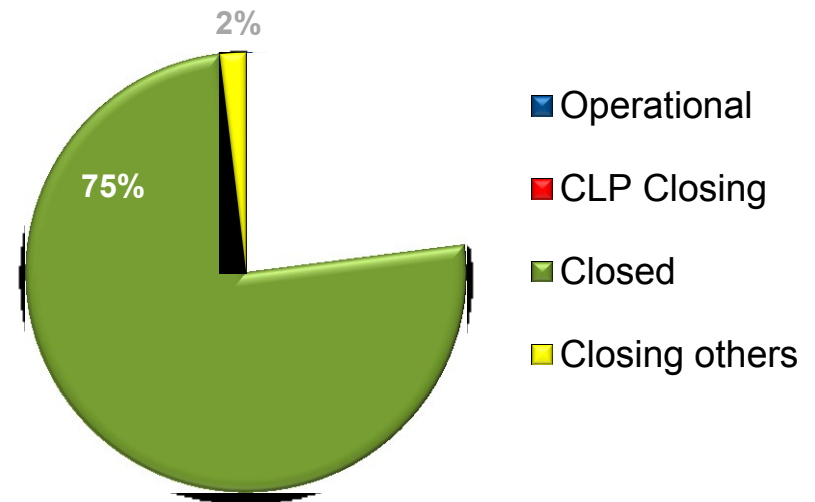
➔ Around 1400 closed permitted landfills of which 1000 closed pre-LfD (2001)

- ➔ Old style WML/CoPA licences
- ➔ Limited compliance limits which may be inappropriate
- ➔ Aftercare should be covered in Working Plans but documents often outdated
- ➔ Inappropriate monitoring requirements
- ➔ Irrelevant operational conditions
- ➔ Many sites not compliant with permit conditions

➔ And 400 closed post-LfD

- ➔ Aftercare measures covered in Closure Reports
- ➔ Now have groundwater compliance (levels)
- ➔ Agree appropriate monitoring schedules
- ➔ Fit for purpose infrastructure
- ➔ Revised compliance limits
- ➔ Compliant with permit conditions

Number of permitted landfills in England (April 2016)



Landfill aftercare – regulatory issues

➡ Compliance issues

- ➡ Elevated leachate levels
- ➡ Landfill gas migration
- ➡ GHG emissions
- ➡ Surface and groundwater impacts
- ➡ Failing management and monitoring infrastructure

➡ Longer term issues

- ➡ Limited financial provision (if any)
- ➡ Signposting towards surrender
- ➡ Completion criteria
- ➡ Length of time to establish waste stabilisation
- ➡ Climate Change
- ➡ Apply the legislation and any changes to it...

Landfill aftercare – technical issues

- ➡ We have many deep landfills
- ➡ Complex geology and hydrogeology
- ➡ Subwater table site relying on hydraulic containment (sites with lots of leachate!)
- ➡ Approx 84% landfills overlying either Principle or Secondary A aquifers
- ➡ Lots of dilute & disperse co-disposal sites
- ➡ Strong reliance on groundwater for drinking water supplies in the South and East of England
- ➡ Many sites with varying engineering designs

Landfill aftercare – a positive note

- ➡ Our guidance and approach to managing landfills has and remains risk-based (DoE Brown Book)
- ➡ We will continue to apply this approach.
- ➡ We need to increase our understanding about long-term waste stabilisation and the declining source-term
- ➡ We are currently undertaking an internal review of our closed landfill policy/approach



Nicky Ingrey
Environment Agency
Senior Advisor – Closed & Closing landfills
Nicky.ingrey@environment-agency.gov.uk

