

Landspreading the News - Summer Issue 2024

Welcome to the 20th edition of Landspreading the News

This is the Environment Agency, Mobile Plant Team's (MPT) newsletter designed to help us share good practice and updates with industry

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Update on our internal Regulatory Services Platform (ReSP)

In Issue 13 of this newsletter (September 23), we told you about a new internal IT system to replace the current ageing database used by the Permit Support team to log your applications. This new system, known as the Regulatory Services Platform (ReSP), is currently used by our Waste and Installations teams during their determination of permit applications. The Mobile Plant Team will use the system for any mobile plant permit applications that you submit. Over the last 18 months, we have been working on developing the new system to allow for the logging and determination of all Deployment applications.

Although ReSP is only an internal IT system at this stage, it will form the first step towards the creation of an apply & manage online portal. This will allow you to submit your Deployment applications via GOV.UK online pages rather than the current system of emailing completed forms to the PSC email account.

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We expected the internal part of the ReSP system to go live for the Deployments later this year. However, the programme has had to be paused. This delay is disappointing as it pushes back the implementation date of any future online application portal for Deployment applications, which will offer real benefits and efficiencies both to you and us.

We'll update you as soon as we have more information on the development of this system.

Our current performance - July 2023 to June 2024

Our performance has remained relatively steady over the months from April to June. We saw a slight decrease in the number of applications issued over this period as indicated by the drop between April and May. The average number of deployments on our queue has changed very little between April and June, with a slight increase month on month over the quarter reflecting the increase in the number of applications received.

The graph to the left shows the average number on our queue (blue), and the number of applications determined (green) for each month during the period July 2023 to June 2024.

The quantity of deployments we have determined has remained high and we are allocating work quickly – at the time of writing we are allocating work 7 days after being acknowledged as complete applications. There may be a short-

The average number of deployments on our work queue and the $n\dots$

term drop during late August due to peak summer leave, which we will recover quickly from.

Our average determination 'desk days' from allocation to issue stands at 8 days for the period April to June this year and for the last 12 months (July 2023 to June 2024) it was 8 days. This figure is primarily due to delays receiving responses to RFIs, so responding to these quickly will help reduce these timescales further.

As ever please check the information on queue length and allocation timescales provided to you in the deployment logging complete acknowledgement email. This is 'live' information which is updated daily, so it will always give you a current indication of when your deployment will be allocated. The determining permitting officer will also confirm to you promptly that they have been allocated your application once they have it.

Deployments are assessed on an individual basis

We have received several responses to requests for information (RFIs) where applicants are quoting previous decisions made by permitting officers. We would like to highlight that every deployment is assessed on an individual basis - a decision made on previous applications does not necessarily apply for future deployments.

A previous deployment decision is not a valid response to RFIs for future applications.

Update - Permit holder change of address

As included in the previous Landspreading the News issue, <u>Spring 2024 - 19th edition</u>, if you change the address of the permit holder you must vary your permit to reflect this and this must match the address that is on <u>Companies House</u>.

We've been advised by our legal department that, where a permit contains a condition to notify the Environment Agency of a change in the operator's trading name, registered name, or registered office address ("an occurrence"), the operator must notify the Environment Agency within 14 days of the occurrence. Failure to notify the Environment Agency of a change of an occurrence is an offence under Regulation 38(2) of the EPR 2016.

Typically, this is condition 4.3.5 in mobile plant permits, including standard rules SR2010No4 - mobile plant for landspreading.

Thanks for reading!

We welcome any feedback – if you'd like to make any suggestions, or if you would like direct access to this newsletter, please email nps.mobileplant@environment-agency.gov.uk.