



# Landspreading the News - Winter Issue 2024

## Welcome to the 21st 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

### In this issue:

#### News

[2025 Operator Day](#)

[Prioritisation and Christmas](#)

[Changes to our request for information deadlines](#)

[2025 Landspreading standard rules permit review](#)

[Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention booklet](#)

#### Data

[Our current performance - October 2023 to September 2024](#)

#### Reminders

[New version of the LPD1 form](#)

[Making changes to an issued deployment](#)

[Temporary storage at the same location year-on-year](#)

[Operator responsibilities for identifying designated sites](#)

[Email subject for the spreading notification](#)

[Deliver-and-spread guidance](#)

[Multi-waste analysis sheet](#)

## 2025 Operator Day

After the success of our external face-to-face meeting between the Mobile Plant Team and permit operators in July 2023 at our Birmingham office, we would like to ask if there

would be an interest in another face-to-face meeting in early 2025. If so, please let us know if you would like to attend and any possible items you would like to raise.

## Prioritisation and Christmas

With the approach of Christmas next month, we wanted to remind operators that some of our permitting officers are going on leave over the Christmas period and therefore we will have a reduced workforce.

Please prioritise your deployment applications by submitting those that require urgent assessment well before the Christmas break. This will make sure that we can assess and issue your application in sufficient time.

We will resume our regular service in the New Year.



## Changes to our request for information deadlines

### What is happening

We are changing our requested information deadline for landspreading deployments. The number of days to provide a response will reduce from 10 working days to 5 working days. The vast majority of RFI responses are currently received within 5 working days. We do understand that some things may take longer to return, such as soil and waste analysis, and we will show flexibility in these cases.

### When is it happening

This change will begin from the 1st January 2025 and will apply to all landspreading applications received after this date.

### Why are we making this change

The Mobile Plant Team aims to assess and issue deployments efficiently to minimise delays - we believe this change will improve our service by enhancing our efficiency and reducing the time it takes for us to issue your applications.

## 2025 Landspreading standard rules permit review

As part of a planned routine permit review process, we are updating the following 4 permits which are relevant to landspreading activities:

- [Standard Rules 2010 No 4 – Mobile plant for landspreading](#)
- [Standard Rules 2010 No 5 – Mobile plant for the reclamation, restoration or improvement of land](#)
- [Standard Rules 2010 No 6 – Mobile plant for landspreading of sewage sludge](#)
- [Standard Rules 2010 No 17 – Storage of wastes to be used in land treatment](#)

This revision is being undertaken with the aim of consulting on the changes in 2025, during which we will be pleased to receive your feedback on the proposed changes.

## Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention booklet

We would like to share the Environment Agency's new booklet on Pollution-Prevention Rules for Farmers, which was published in September of this year.

This has been produced to help farmers to understand the environmental rules and regulations that govern how they should farm. It brings together a summary of what the rules are and why these are important for both the environment and the farm business, as well as where to find more information.

The booklet can be found on the Farming Advice Service as a pdf document - [Harvesting Success: Pollution-Prevention Rules for Farmers | Farming Advice Service](#). Hardcopies can be ordered by contacting NCCC on enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk or 03708 506 506, or by speaking to your Local Area officer.

## Our current performance - October 2023 to September 2024

Our performance has remained relatively steady over the months from July to September. We saw a slight decrease in the number of applications issued over this period as indicated by the drop between August and September. The average number

of deployments on our queue increased between July and August - due to the summer leave period - but dropped back down the following month.

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 October 2023 to

The average number of deployments on our work queue and the number of...

September 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 8 days after being acknowledged as complete applications. There may be a short-term drop in issued applications during the Christmas period due to officers taking leave, which we will recover quickly from. The service will continue to run over the break but at reduced levels.

Our average determination 'desk days' from allocation to issue stands at 7 days for the period July to September this year and for the last 12 months (October 2023 to September 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.

## New version of the LPD1 form

We have recently received applications with old versions of the LPD1 form included. Please make sure that you use the newest version - version 5 - of the LPD1 form as we are returning applications that use previous versions.

The newest version, as of July 2024, can be found on gov.uk - [Landspreading: apply to deploy mobile plant - GOV.UK](#).

## Making changes to an issued deployment

We have recently received several enquiries to change deployment applications after they have been issued. The guidance for making changes to an issued deployment can be found under the LPD1 guidance - [Landspreading: form LPD1 guidance - GOV.UK](#).

You must not make any changes to your deployment without the Environment Agency's agreement. The Environment Agency may allow some minor operational changes, but depending on what your proposed change is, you may need to apply for a new deployment e.g. an addition of a waste stream, addition of land parcels, etc.

Any changes that you wish to make must be discussed with your Local Environment Agency area officer, and their contact details are included on your deployment issue letter.

## Temporary storage at the same location year-on-year

We have identified several operators that are using the same storage locations for deployment landspreading activities year-on-year. Although storage on deployments is temporary, storage use at the same location may constitute a permanent facility - [Landspreading: how to comply with your permit - GOV.UK](#).

*The Environment Agency will consider your place of storage as a permanent facility if:*

- *it is in constant use*
- *it stores a succession of temporary waste*
- *you regularly need to store waste after the deployment expires*

*You may need to apply for a site-based permit such as [SR2010 No 17: storage of wastes to be used in land treatment](#). This allows you to store up to 75,000 tonnes of waste for up to 3 years.*

Please make sure that your temporary storage location does not store a succession of temporary waste when applying for future deployment applications.

## Operator responsibilities for identifying designated sites

We want to remind operators of the importance of ensuring that deployment

applications include accurate information about sensitive receptors. This includes designated sites that have specific protections such as groundwater source protection zones (SPZ), sites of special scientific interest (SSSI), special areas of conservation (SAC), special protection areas (SPA), Ramsar's and marine conservation zones (MCZ).

We need this information to determine whether a deployment is at a higher risk location which may trigger the requirement for a Site-Specific Risk Assessment, and consultation with other regulatory bodies such as Natural England.

You must also consider other environmentally sensitive receptors such as protected species and habitat, nature conservation, heritage and landscape sites, e.g. National Landscapes or local wildlife sites, controlled waters such as streams and rivers, and people living, working or using amenities around the deployment location.

Please make sure you check with farmers and landowners that your deployment activities comply with the requirements of other agreements such as Countryside Stewardship and Sustainable Farming Incentives under the Environmental Land Management programme – failure to do so could impact on payments under these schemes.

### Email subject for the spreading notification

Our Local Area colleagues would like to remind permit operators to provide both the farm name and the deployment reference number (e.g. Manor Farm AB1234CD/D0567) in the subject line of your spreading notification emails. This is also explained within the deployment issue letter.

## Deliver-and-spread guidance

We are aware of several examples where no storage or stockpiles have been included on deployment applications, but our Local Area colleagues have notified the Mobile Plant Team that storage is being used.

If you intend to store waste for longer than 24 hours before spreading to land you must include the storage on the deployment LPD1 form. You could be in breach of your permit if you fail to do so.

## Multi-waste analysis sheet

We occasionally receive applications where the waste analysis report contains several waste samples. In recent cases our permitting officers have needed clarification where it is not clear which analyses refers to which wastes to be spread.

Please clearly identify the corresponding waste analysis for each waste stream that are intended to be spread. This will reduce the need to request for further information and speed up our determination.

## Thanks for reading!

We welcome any feedback – if you'd like to make any suggestions, please email [nps.mobileplant@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:nps.mobileplant@environment-agency.gov.uk). Please let us know via the same email address if you would like direct access to this newsletter or our SharePoint site.