
Local Authority:	Three Rivers District Council
Reference:	USA5-054
Date of issue	April 2012

Updating and Screening Assessment Appraisal Report

The Report sets out the Updating and Screening Assessment, which forms part of the Review & Assessment process required under the Environment Act 1995 and subsequent Regulations.

It covers all regulated pollutants and considers monitoring data, road traffic sources, other transport sources, industrial sources, commercial and domestic sources and fugitive or uncontrolled sources.

The report has identified exceedence of the annual mean NO₂ objective at the continuous monitoring site in Rickmansworth. However, this site is not representative of public exposure and the Local Authority has undertaken a fall-off with distance calculation which shows that the concentration at the nearest relevant receptor is expected to be compliant. The site was removed in September 2011, resulting in a low data capture rate – the Local Authority has undertaken short-term data adjustment. The conclusion that a Detailed Assessment is not required at this location is accepted.

The report concludes that the Kings Langley AQMA (NO₂) and the Chandlers Cross AQMA (NO₂) can be revoked – this is accepted based on diffusion tube results collected in 2010 and 2011 which appear to confirm the conclusions of a previous assessment: concentrations were over-predicted due to the motorway being elevated above relevant receptors at these locations. The report also concludes that the PM₁₀ declaration for the Chandlers Cross AQMA can be revoked for the same reason – the emission source is elevated away from receptors. This is accepted. The report states that monitoring for NO₂ will continue in Kings Langley and Chandlers Cross – this is supported.

The report concludes that the Chorleywood AQMA (NO₂ and PM₁₀) should be retained – diffusion tubes have recorded exceedences in the area and the report states that more evidence is needed before considering revoking this AQMA. This is supported.

The report identified a possible exceedence of the annual mean NO₂ objective outside of the existing AQMAs at All Saints Lane, Croxley Green. Due to a low data capture rate achieved at this site in 2011, the Local Authority does not propose to proceed to Detailed Assessment but will install a monitoring site at a location representative of relevant exposure in this area – this is accepted.

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On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority, the conclusions reached are accepted for all sources and pollutants.

Following the completion of this report, Three Rivers District Council should proceed with revoking the Kings Langley and Chandlers Cross AQMAs and submit a Progress Report (including Action Plan progress for the remaining AQMA) by April 2013.

Commentary

The report is well structured and provides most of the information specified in the Guidance. The following specific items are drawn to the local authority's attention to help inform future work. It is strongly recommended that the local authority note these items for future reporting purposes:

1. The report includes maps showing the AQMA boundaries. In future LAQM reports, it would be useful if the Local Authority could make the AQMA shapes transparent such that the buildings contained within the AQMA can be seen in these figures. This gives an indication of the population included in the AQMA.
2. The Local Authority has not carried out short-term data adjustment for all sites which recorded low data capture rates. Reasons for not undertaking this calculation (e.g. sporadic data loss throughout the year) should be stated in future LAQM reports.

This commentary is not designed to deal with every aspect of the report. It highlights a number of issues that should help the local authority either in completing the Updating and Screening Assessment adequately (if required) or in carrying out future Review & Assessment work.

Issues specifically related to this appraisal can be followed up by returning the attached comment form to Defra, Welsh Assembly Government, Scottish Government or DOE, as appropriate – or by emailing the form to reportappraisal@ttr-ltd.com.

For any other queries please contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk:

Telephone: 0800 0327 953

Email: LAQMHelpdesk@uk.bureauveritas.com

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Appraisal Response Comment Form

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
Contact email address:	

Comments on appraisal/Further information: