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Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Department of Technical Development Services, Wigners Lane, Bromwich

Date **15 MAY 1990**

DTDS	C.ENG	C.ECON	C.A.O

File No.

*Handwritten notes and signatures*

Oldbury Works  
*Handwritten signature*

Date 11th May 1990  
Your Ref  
Our Ref **FMP/WEH**

P.O. Box 80  
Trinity Street  
Oldbury, Warley  
West Midlands B69 4LN  
Telephone:  
National 021-552 3333  
International + 44 21 552 3333  
Direct Line:  
021-541  
Telex 338724  
Fax 021-541 3235

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council,  
Waste Management Division,  
Shidas Lane,  
Oldbury,  
Warley,  
West Midlands.

*Handwritten signature: JH.*

Dear Sirs,

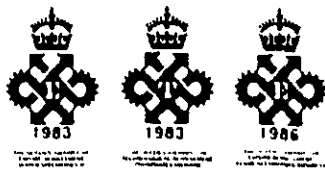
I regret to advise that we are experiencing increasing difficulties in maintaining access to the West side of our licensed landfill site in Johns Lane, Tividale, due to unauthorised deposition of building rubble, old furniture, worn tyres and other materials by persons unknown.

The level of deposition has now reached the stage wherein access to Johns Lane beyond our entrance into the gates of our landfill site is impossible for any form of vehicular traffic. This is presenting us with two serious problems:-

1. Our perimeter fence was originally constructed to a height of 7' to provide adequate security. Whilst we have maintained this standard within the confines of the site, the deposition of materials in Johns Lane adjacent to the boundary wall has reduced this height to a mere 2'- 3'. I am, therefore, concerned that we may be deemed to be in a breach of schedule 16 of our site license which requires all fencing to be maintained to the satisfaction of the licensing authority.
2. From time to time we experience damage to our perimeter fencing due to vehicular impact, vandalism etc. It is clearly vital that we are able to effect appropriate repairs to maintain adequate security as quickly as possible. The fencing consists of concrete panelling. It would be most hazardous to attempt to carry out repair work from within the Rattlechain site due to poor access, sloping banks etc. Consequently this work has to be carried out from the Johns Lane or canal towpath areas. The current inability to utilise Johns Lane therefore removes our ability to carry out essential repairs to our perimeter fencing.

*Spoke to Mike Peters.  
Informed him work done by  
Thames Valley Ltd, Conygar Rd.  
Checked into, made part into  
book of C. Sec.*

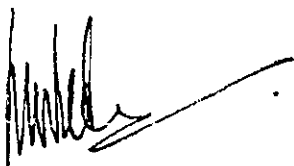
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At present we do, in fact, have need to repair damaged sections of the concrete panels, and our engineer advises me that he is currently unable to gain access in order that this essential work can be completed.

I would, therefore, seek your assistance in endeavouring to clear the accumulated debris in the Johns Lanes area between our main access gates and the canal. Ideally, we would like to see the thoroughfare restored to its original level in order that we may regain the effective height of our perimeter fence and would be most grateful if you could advise me of the feasibility of achieving this objective.

Yours faithfully,



E. M. Peters  
Safety/Security Manager.

**Oldbury Works**

Date 10th October 1989

P.O. Box 80  
Trinity Street  
Oldbury, Warley  
West Midlands B69 4LN

Your Ref

Our Ref **FMP/WEH**Telephone:  
National 021-552 3333

International — 44 21 552 3333

Direct Line:  
021-541  
Telex 338724  
Fax 021-541 3235

Mr. D. Whitford,  
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council,  
Hazardous Waste Unit,  
Darwall Street,  
WALSALL.  
WS1 1DJ

**6106**

Dear Mr. Whitford,

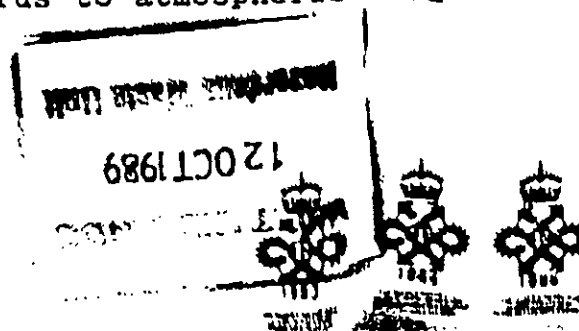
Further to our telephone conversation of yesterday, I would confirm that on Sunday 8th October 1989, there was an incident at our Rattlechain Landfill site which gave rise to the attendance of the West Midlands Fire Service and may have caused nuisance to local residents.

The circumstances of the incident were as follows:-

At approximately 10.00 a.m. residents in the area of Temple Way contacted the West Midlands Fire Service to report smoke arising from the Johns Lane area. The West Midlands Fire Service attended the scene, assisted by the airborne Police Unit who identified the source as being our Rattlechain Landfill Site. A call was made at 10.15 a.m. from Fire Service Control to the A&W Lobby Commissionaire and this was immediately routed through to site management.

Investigation at the scene indicated that the fire was caused by traces of phosphorus contained in contaminated soil close to the edge of the main lagoon. A small quantity of phosphorus gives rise to a considerable volume of dense white smoke. The West Midlands Fire Service extinguished the fire using water sprays within 10 minutes of their arrival at the Rattlechain Site.

It was clear that in the recent past, there had been an inadvertent contamination of the surface soil adjacent to the edge of the lagoon, with material containing traces of phosphorus. The fine, dry weather of 8th October caused the surface to dry out exposing the traces of phosphorus to atmospheric oxygen.



Place of registration England  
Registered number 36833  
Registered office  
P.O. Box 3  
Hagley Road West, Oldbury  
Warley West Midlands

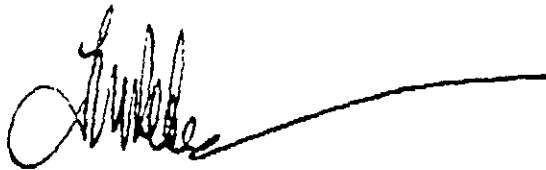
An excavator was brought to the site, and this was used to skim off the surface of the soil close to the lagoon and drop the contaminated material into the lagoon. The excavated area was then made good by infilling with topsoil moved from the higher ground adjacent to the contaminated area.

Our investigations into the incident lead us to believe that the contamination of the soil arose during disposal of 25 drums of effluent sludge (reference Consignment Note 747634) which had taken place during the previous week. This sludge arose during clean-out of the settling tanks on our effluent plant and as such, consisted essentially of calcium phosphates. As, however, this material was taken from the bottom of the effluent tanks, it was envisaged that there may have been traces of phosphorus in the material.

A contractor was used to convey the drums to the Rattlechain site. Twenty one steel drums were successfully deposited into the waters of the lagoon. The contractor, however, noted four 210 litre poly drums in the consignment, and was concerned that they may have had a degree of buoyancy and may not have sunk into the lagoon. The contractor exercised his initiative and decided to empty the four poly drums and bring the empty drums back to the Works. He emptied the drums onto the soil surface close to the edge of the lagoon, and shovelled the soil into the lagoon. Clearly some small amount of contaminated material was left on the bank.

It is apparent from this chain of events that we need to ensure that if any material containing traces of phosphorus is spilled onto the surface of the land area for any reason, we quickly excavate and ensure that all contaminated material is submerged beneath the water of the lagoon. I will ensure that procedures are laid down for the appropriate site management and any contractors who might be involved in any such operations. I am confident, therefore, that we can eliminate any possibility of a recurrence of the incident.

Your sincerely,



F. M. Peters  
SAFETY MANAGER

# ALBRIGHT & WILSON

OLDBURY WORKS

PO Box 80  
Trinity Street  
Oldbury  
Warley  
West Midlands B69 4LN

Telephone  
National 0121-552-3333  
International +44 121-552-3333

Telex 338724 ALBRIW G

Fax 0121-541-3235

01922 65 0000

Date 2nd June 1995

Your Ref

Our Ref 008/TD/WEA

Direct Phone 0121 541 3343

Direct Fax 0121 541 3444

Official policy 2 write to

Sandwell MBC,

Richard Norton. £2,175

John Lunn

Divisional Waste Control Officer,  
West Midlands Hazardous Waste Unit,  
Environmental Health and Consumer Services Department,  
Walsall MBC,  
Challenge Building,  
Hatherton Road,  
WALSALL.  
WS1 1YG

Dear Sir,

Technically competent management for  
Rattlechain Tip (Licence No. SL 31)

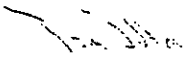
Mr Francis Michael Peters, who was part of the technically competent management team responsible for the Rattlechain site, has retired.

His successor is:-

Dr Michael Edmund Rowley  
Born 29/07/64 in Huddersfield

Could you please alter your records accordingly.

Yours faithfully,  
ALBRIGHT & WILSON UK LIMITED

  
T. Dutton  
Safety & Environment Department

# ALBRIGHT & WILSON

## OLDBURY WORKS

Date	15th February, 1996	PO Box 80 Trinity Street Oldbury Warley West Midlands B69 4LN
Your Ref	PH/RN/CB	
Our Ref	CP/MP	Telephone National <u>0121-552-3333</u> International +44 121-552-3333
Direct Line	0121-541 3200	Telex 338724 ALBRIW G Fax 0121-541-3235

Mr. R. Norton,  
Public Health Manager,  
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council,  
Department of Environment & Development Services,  
Flash Road,  
Oldbury, Warley,  
West Midlands. B69 4AF

Dear Sir,

Your letter 1.2.96 refers. You should be aware that Albright & Wilson formally notified you in June 1995 of a change to the list of Technically Competent Management for the Rattlechain landfill site (licence SL31). See copy of letter enclosed.

You should also note that the responsibility of Mr. S. Hampson has changed. He is no longer Area Production Manager but remains with the Company and remains a technically competent person.

Yours faithfully,



C. Platts  
Works Manager