

HS/009

CONSULTATION REPORT FOR SANDWELL MBC DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

HSS/9/D

DATE RECEIVED 23rd November 1993

Albright and Wilson Limited,
PO Box 80,
Trinity Street,
Oldbury,
Warley,
West Midlands. B69 4LN.

Reduction in the overall quantity of chlorine stored at the Oldbury Works. Application for hazardous substances consent.

PLAN ALLOCATIONS : Industrial (Oldbury with Langley District Plan 1980).

CONSULTEES:

Sandwell M.B.C.
Health and Safety Executive.

OBSERVATIONS

This report refers to a consultation received from the Black Country Development Corporation in respect of an application received from Albright and Wilson Limited under section 13 of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 for hazardous substances consent without a condition subject to which the previous deemed hazardous substances consent was subject.

A new chlorine handling facility at Albright and Wilson Limited, Oldbury Works site has recently been completed. This development allows for a significant reduction in the overall quantity of chlorine stored. At present there is deemed hazardous substances consent for 720 tonnes of chlorine to be stored on site. The new facility allows this to be reduced to 38 tonnes. However, in order to deal safely with very low frequency events, the actual maximum quantity stated in the variation is 50 tonnes. However, the applicants have stated that it is their plan to monitor the number of occasions when the 38 tonnes maximum is exceeded and to review their systems and procedures together with those of their suppliers to ensure that the frequency is managed to the absolute minimum possible. The change outlined above will be fully effective by January 1994.

It is very rare if not unique to receive an application for variation of a condition which actually strengthens a condition. It has been prompted by the sequence of changes instigated by financial help from the Development Corporation to reduce the impact that the Oldbury Works has in terms of the major hazards consultation zone around the works. The impact has yet to be quantified by the Health and Safety Executive as it is dependent upon an assessment of the risk posed which can only be done when the plant has been in operation for a reasonable period of time. However, any reduction in the amount handled is to be welcomed.

RECOMMENDATION : It is recommended that the Development Corporation be informed that the Council welcomes the reduction in the quantity of chlorine stored at Albright and Wilson Limited and has no objection to hazardous substances consent being given with a condition which modifies the previous deemed hazardous substances consent from 720 tonnes to a maximum of 50 tonnes.