

**FIFE COUNCIL
ECONOMY, PLANNING AND EMPLOYABILITY SERVICES**

ELECTED MEMBER BRIEFING NOTE

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Event/Incident/ Subject:	Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Independent Air Quality Monitoring Review Group – 2015 Annual Report	Dates of Event/Incident:	2015/16
Contact Name:	Kenny Bisset Lead Officer Land & Air Quality Team		
Details:	<p>The purpose of this briefing note is to summarise the contents of the recently finalised Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Independent Air Quality Monitoring Review Group 2015 Annual Report.</p> <p>The Mossmorran & Braefoot Bay Independent Air Quality Monitoring Review Group advises Fife Council regarding the monitoring of air emissions arising from the operations at the Mossmorran plants and the Braefoot Bay terminal facilities.</p> <p>Air quality monitoring has demonstrated that concentrations of benzene and other hydrocarbons are low in the vicinity of the facilities. The Review Group concluded in 1999 that its work was nearing completion. It was reconstituted in 2001 following concern expressed by local communities with regard to perceived air quality and cancer-related health issues in the vicinity of Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay. The Review Group continues to liaise with local communities and representatives of the local health service.</p> <p>During 2015 there were no plant changes that would be anticipated to adversely affect local air quality.</p> <p>Emissions from all regulated sources at the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay facilities in 2015 were well within the limits set by SEPA for the protection of human health and the environment.</p> <p>SEPA carries out an annual review of the environmental performance of each site under the Compliance Assessment Scheme. ExxonMobil at</p>		

	<p>Braefoot Bay was rated as Excellent for 2015 while Shell UK Ltd and ExxonMobil at Mossmorran were rated as Good.</p> <p>Flaring is undertaken to protect the plant safety during planned and unplanned maintenance work. The ground level flares are used in preference to the elevated flare to minimise noise and light nuisance for local residents. The quantity flared varies from year to year depending on circumstances. The total quantities of gas flared in 2015 were higher than those in 2014 (which were the lowest since the plants were commissioned). Elevated flaring occurred in June, July and October at the Fife Ethylene Plant site due to plant process upsets. In each instance, an investigation was undertaken and the outcomes reported to, and discussed with SEPA. Shell UK Ltd also completed a ground flare refurbishment programme in 2015.</p> <p>Concentrations of benzene and other hydrocarbons in air monitored along the Fife coastline for BP Production and Exploration during 2015 were very low and similar to the levels measured in 2014. The measured hydrocarbons are emitted from a variety of sources around the Forth including BP's operations at Hound Point, the operations of ExxonMobil and Shell at Braefoot Bay and Mossmorran, and road transport. It should be appreciated that measured concentrations at any one location are highly dependent on weather conditions.</p> <p>Fife Council's Air Quality team did not identify any new issues in the vicinity of Mossmorran or Braefoot Bay in their 2015 Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment Report.</p> <p>The Review Group has continued to review the possible impact of the wind farm at Little Raith Farm, (immediately north of the Mossmorran site perimeter) on pollutant dispersion from Mossmorran, but is not aware of any significant new information that would assist in the prediction of possible impacts</p> <p>The outcomes of air quality monitoring to date in the vicinity of Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay facilities indicate that automatic continuous monitoring of pollutants in surrounding settlements is not required.</p> <p>In conclusion, the work undertaken by the Review Group in 2015 demonstrates that emissions from the Shell and ExxonMobil Plants at Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay continue to pose no significant risk to the health of members of the local community.</p>
<p>Action Taken:</p>	<p>Fife Council's Air Quality team has not identified any new air quality issues in the vicinity of Mossmorran in its Updating and Screening Assessment Report 2015 Report.</p> <p>The full Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Air Quality 2015 report (including a non-technical summary) and Updating and Screening Assessment Report 2015 are available on the Fife Council air quality publications webpage at www.fifedirect.org.uk/airquality .</p>

Responsible Officer(s):	Kenny Bisset Lead Officer Land and Air Quality Team Ext 440461
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Authorised By:  _____

Date: 30/5/16 _____

Designation: Senior Manager

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