

General Environmental Management Plan (GEMP) – Dust Management



TG-NET-ENV-520	General Environmental Management Plan (GEMP) – Dust Management		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 1.01	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2024	Review Date: March 2027

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1 Introduction

1.1 There are many potential sources of dust from a construction site which need to be closely managed on an ongoing basis to ensure it is adequately controlled on site. Likely sources of dust include:

- Haul roads and access tracks;
- Yards and storage areas;
- Soil storage areas;
- Construction corridor (exposed areas following stripping);
- Material transportation;
- Transport of mud onto the public highway;
- Loading and unloading materials;
- Quarrying or blasting activities;
- Crushing / screening activities;
- Stone breaking;
- Concrete or stone cutting

1.2 Once dust particles are airborne, it is very difficult to prevent them from dispersing into the surrounding area. The most effective technique is to control dust at source and prevent it from becoming airborne.

2 Legislation

2.1 In the event of dust becoming an issue there is potential for enforcement action from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) or the local authority. There is also the potential for legal action, which will have cost, programme and reputation implications.

2.2 Likely actions and implications include:

- Health and & Safety implications for operatives on site and wider public;
- Nuisance to neighbours and bad publicity for the site;
- Abatement notice or enforcement action from regulators;
- Impact on project programme and budget (e.g. compliance with statutory notices relating to dust levels / abatement notices);
- Under the Clean Air Act 1993 and Part 3 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, local authorities can impose limits on dust generated from a site;
- Impacts on ecology (e.g. impacting on plant growth, smothering of habitats, watercourse pollution, local pH changes etc)

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3 General Compliance Requirements

3.1 Planning the Works

- 3.1.1 Where Dust has the potential to become an issue, a protection plan should be developed.
- 3.1.2 A Dust Management Plan should be incorporated into the CEMP under the Air Quality Management section.
- 3.1.3 Likely sources of dust should be identified ahead of works and appropriate mitigation measures put in place to minimise the risk of dust become an issue.
- 3.1.4 Nearby potential receptors such as residential dwellings or sensitive habitats should be identified, and the works planned minimise the risk of dust impacting on these, with the adoption of up-front appropriate mitigation measures.

3.2 Avoiding Dust Generating Activities

- 3.2.1 Plan activities to ensure that, as far as practical, particularly dusty activities are not carried out in unsuitable weather conditions (i.e. very dry / windy conditions) unless suppression is in place.
- 3.2.2 Store materials away from the site boundary.
- 3.2.3 Limit vehicle speeds along stone access tracks.
- 3.2.4 Vehicles carrying bulk materials should be sheeted if could give rise to dust.
- 3.2.5 Keep height of soil stockpiles to a minimum and gently grade the side slopes.
- 3.2.6 Minimise the height of fall of materials.
- 3.2.7 Reduce the height that materials are unloaded from.
- 3.2.8 Do not use drills that are powered by compressed air unless appropriate control measures are in place.
- 3.2.9 Ensure any tools or plant which have facilities for dust suppression utilise this function.

3.3 Management and Mitigation

- 3.3.1 Inspect high risk areas daily, especially during dry weather. Keep a record of inspections and any actions identified required.
- 3.3.2 Mud should not be deposited on roads. Where applicable, wheel cleaning facilities will be provided prior to vehicles leaving site.
- 3.3.3 Keep all public roads well swept and bowse if required. Ensure a road sweeper can be commissioned locally to the site in the event of an issue arising.
- 3.3.4 Suppress dust from soil stockpiles, haul roads, stripped working corridors and material storage areas, by bowsing with water, where required.

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- 3.3.5 Ensure the relevant permissions and consents have been obtained for water used for suppression activities (e.g. CAR authorisation from SEPA or Standpipe Licence from Scottish Water).
- 3.3.6 Ensure efficient use of water to dampen down dust (e.g. use of diffusers to suppress wide areas with a spray/mist rather than a standard hosepipe arrangement).
- 3.3.7 Any run-off from dust suppression activities shall be controlled in line with best practice to avoid creating sediment contaminated run off.
- 3.3.8 Communicate dust management procedures to all relevant personnel and provide suitable training if required. Keep a record of appropriate training and issue of tool box talks.
- 3.3.9 Follow-up any complaints immediately and take action to avoid a repeat complaint.
- 3.3.10 Further information available in:
- BRE (2003) Control of dust from construction and demolition activities;
 - DETR (2000) Environmental handbook for building and civil engineering projects;
 - CIRIA (2005) Environmental Good Practice – site guide

4 Revision History

No	Overview of Amendments	Previous Document	Revision	Authorisation
01	New Document Created	N/A	1.00	Richard Baldwin
02	Review and update existing document	TG-NET-ENV-520 General Environmental Management Plan (GEMP) – Dust Management Rev 1.00	1.01	Richard Baldwin
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