

# Calderdale Borough Council

# Human Health Risk Assessment Review Response Summary

October 2024





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# **1** Introduction

Bureau Veritas has been appointed by Calderdale Borough Council to peer review the Human Health Risk Assessment submitted in support of the Environmental Permit (EP) Application by Calder Valley Skip Hire Ltd (CVSH). CVSH propose to operate a new small waste incineration plant (SWIP) at their waste transfer station (WTS) site in Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire.

The EP application (Ref. S13/006) included a supporting Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) which considers the impact of the application on sensitive receptors.

Bureau review was completed in July 2024 and RPS have provided a response note. This response note is summarised below in non-technical language.

### 2 Comment 1 Summary and Response

The first comment made within the Bureau Veritas review was a discrepancy within the Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) and the submitted Air Quality Assessment. While it is accepted that these two assessments are different and informed by different evidence bases and methodologies, they are based on some of the same principles. For example, the HHRA has used the modelling work completed for the Air Quality assessment as an input to the HHRAs predictive modelling.

Bureau Veritas noted that the surrounding resident which was most affected within the Air Quality Assessment had not been considered within the HHRA.

RPS have provided a response stating that based on the different methodologies inherent in the 'IRAP' model used for the HHRA, they do not believe that the worst case Air Quality receptor would be the same as the worst case HHRA receptor.

#### 3 Comment 2 Summary and Response

As stated above, there are links between the Air Quality assessment and HHRA. One of which is the output from the ADMS model being used for the HHRA. Bureau Veritas have also commented on the Air Quality Modelling assessment methodology which used this 'ADMS Model'.

The ADMS model for air quality went through many iterations and tests to ensure that it was providing a robust and reliable means for predicting changes as a result of the development. These tests included using data from a different weather station and using different model inputs to represent the local geography around the assessment site.

RPS have provided a summary of the different tests which show that the difference between the models varies at different receptors and the variation is not great. It is therefore considered that a suitable model output has been chosen to inform the HHRA.

## 4 Comment 3 Summary and Response

There were several assumptions made within the HHRA for which it was not clear how the assumptions were made. Specifically, these were the assumption of an average UK lifespan of 70 years and assumption 20kg for the average weight of a child. These figures were used within the calculations to inform the assessment.

RPS have responded to state that the 70 year lifespan was not actually used within the assessment, therefore the assumption is not significant.

They have also advised that the assumption of a 20kg child is based on an Environment Agency report. This is considered appropriate.