Bagasse Storage Guideline

Australian Society of Sugar Technologists (ASSCT) 2005 Conference, Bundaberg

Ricci Churchill, District Manager (Mackay)

Environmental Protection Agency
Bagasse Storage Guideline

• EPA’s role – sugar industry
• Need for Guideline
• Project scope
• Progress to date
• Contributors
• Content of Guideline
• Format of the Guideline
EPA’s role

• Licensing environmentally relevant activities (ERAs) under the EP Act
  • Eg. ERA36 – Sugar Milling

• Compliance with the EPAct
  • Inspections
  • Incident response
  • Complaint investigations
  • Duty of care
Need for guideline

- Complaints
- Bagasse fire and resulting prosecution
- Projects potentially resulting in larger bagasse stockpiles
- Continuous improvement
Project Scope

- To produce a guideline that outlines best practise environmental management for the bulk storage of bagasse;
- To assist EPA officers licence and regulate the bulk storage of bagasse consistently across the state.
- To provide a reference point for industry best practice.
Progress to date

- Information gathered from project team and key stakeholders;
- Guideline drafted and provided to project team and key stakeholders.
- Comments received.
- Next Step - revise draft following evaluation of comments, including input from this conference.
Contributors

• Team Members:
  – EPA staff members in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Maryborough and Brisbane

• Key Stakeholders
  – ASMC, CSR, Mackay Sugar and Bundaberg Sugar
Content of the guideline

• Background information
• Table presenting information about:
  – Impacts of bulk storage of bagasse (Air, Water, Noise)
  – Source of impacts
  – Control methods to mitigate impacts
• Further information
Format of the guideline

Water – The bulk storage of bagasse can cause impacts on nearby waterways. If contaminated stormwater, leachate and windborne bagasse enters a waterway it has the potential to reduce dissolved oxygen levels and in extreme circumstances this can result in fishkills.

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<th>Impact</th>
<th>Source of impact</th>
<th>Control Methods</th>
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| Contamination of waterways | • Contaminated stormwater and leachate leaving the site and entering waterways or groundwater;  
• Bagasse dust being deposited in stormwater drains from bagasse transport and handling operations;  
• Combustion events (including spontaneous combustion) resulting in contaminated fire fighting water; | • Stockpile bagasse in locations with effective stormwater management systems;  
• Stockpile the bagasse on a pad with a permeability of not more than 1 x 10^-9 m/s;  
• Provide an extra area of compacted pad to manage bagasse that has developed high temperatures; |
The EPA welcomes the opportunity to discuss the draft guideline and receive feedback to improve the document for us all to use.
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