

The last year has seen intense investigation regarding noise pollution from TRU7 at Sinks Pit. This has been led by the TRU7 consultant – Hydrok/SPLtrack supported by ESC, SCC and EA people and their consultants.

The first deliverable was a detailed noise measurement and analysis of each piece of equipment used on the Sinks Pit site (28 items). Many actions have been taken to mitigate noise pollution from these – some more successful than others.

At the same time the EA has been working with TRU7 on a noise management plan which was signed-off as compatible with industry standards for controlling noise at mineral sites. The plan is now enshrined in the TRU7 Management System alongside a commitment to its use. There are now additional staff at TRU7 responsible for execution of the plan. As an aside, all the work put in by the CLG team has (in my opinion) contributed to the “maturity” of TRU7 as a business – all driven by Little Bealings Residents.

Not all noises have been mitigated and there is ongoing work. A major disruptive noise is manifested by very low frequency rumbling / vibration. The source of this has been identified and a considerable effort has been expended including plant repair and renewal, and even electronic noise cancellation techniques - all to no avail

A long-standing issue has been the status of a new workshop building which was constructed without planning permission. This is of concern to us as it is claimed that noisy work will be shielded when done inside the building. We shall see. It is rumoured the retrospective planning application will be going to committee late March

***Dick Thornborrow***

***For Sinks Valley Environmental Protection Group***