

Company Secretary  
Knauf Drywall  
Ridham Dock  
Kemsley  
Sittingbourne  
Kent  
ME9 8SR

Our Ref.: VW/Knauf/FW/13

Date.: 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013

When Calling Please Ask For : Nathan Vear

Direct line telephone number : (01472) 324833

e-mail address : nathan.vear@nelincs.gov.uk

Dear Secretary,

**RE: Formal Warning - Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2013. Knauf UK GMBH, Gypsum Storage Pad, Immingham Dock. Bulk storage of gypsum process. Permit Reference EP/200600005**

I am writing to you with regards to an incident on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2013 at the above storage pad, where unacceptable levels of visible emissions of gypsum beyond the site boundary were witnessed by Council officers. Gypsum covering neighbouring business premises on the Immingham Dock Estate was also recorded.

As a result of this incident, and as has discussed with the site Manager, Mr Peter Winn, a **Formal Warning** is hereby given for failure to comply with the following Conditions of the above permit:

**Condition 3**

There should be no visible emission of airborne dust from the process or its operations across the site boundary.

**Condition 7**

The regulator should be informed without delay:

- if there is an emission that is likely to have an effect on the local community

**Condition 9**

Storage areas should be kept in such a condition that they do not give rise to visible dust emissions.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2013, the council received a complaint accompanied by photographs that clearly show unacceptable levels of gypsum blowing across the site boundary. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Local Authority contacted the Site Manager, Peter Winn, to inform him that complaints had been received regarding the release of gypsum and that prompt remedial action needed to be taken to prevent further release.

A second visit was made to site on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April by Miss Vicky Wray, Technical Officer from North East Lincolnshire Council. During the visit, the officer witnessed visible emissions of gypsum arising from the stockpiles beyond the site boundary and detected gypsum in the surrounding storage yards and business premises on the Dock Estate. It is our view that inadequate dust suppression measures were in place to prevent dust emissions from the stockpiles and yard, mainly stemming from an insufficient water supply feeding the on-site rain bird system. In addition, no notification of the incident on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of April was provided to North East Lincolnshire Council by the operator, as would typically be expected.

Regulation 38 (1) (b) of the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2013; it is an offence for a person to fail to comply with or to contravene an environmental permit condition. Continued breach of the condition could result in prosecution and the penalties given by the court a maximum £50,000 fine and/or up to 6 months imprisonment.

The Council would welcome a full investigation into the cause of the release, and requests an action plan on corrective measures to be taken by you to prevent reoccurrence to be provided in writing to the Local Authority within 28 days of the date of this letter. The results of the investigation and written proposed action plan shall be sent for the attention the Environment Team to the address provided below.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number.

Yours Sincerely



Nathan Vear

**Service Manager - Environment**

CC. Mr P. Winn