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Air Quality Assessment Report

PROPOSED EXTENSION AND INFILL EXTENSION TO EXISTING STORAGE WAREHOUSE INCLUDING NEW TWO STOREY OFFICES TO THE FRONT, RAISING THE EAVES AND RIDGE HEIGHT.

Air Quality Assessment for the Extension / Infill Extension of Part of GNG Foam Converters existing Warehouse, creating new two storey offices, including raising the eaves and ridge height. GNG Foam Converters (Lancs) Ltd, Todmorden Road, Littleborough, Lancashire, OL15 9EG.

1. Introduction

This air quality assessment evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed development on local air quality during both the construction and operational phases. It considers compliance with Rochdale Borough Council's air quality policies and relevant legislation, including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010.

2. Site Context

- **Location:** GNG Foam Converters, Littleborough.
- **Current Use:** Warehouse and associated operations.
- **Proximity to Sensitive Receptors:** The site is located in an industrial area, with residential properties approximately 100 meters to the east and open the railway lines to the west just off the site.

Air Quality Management Area (AQMA): The site is not located within an AQMA, but nearby areas may experience elevated levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM₁₀/PM_{2.5}) due to traffic and industrial activities.

3. Potential Sources of Air Quality Impact

A. Construction Phase

- **Dust and Particulate Matter:**
 - Emissions from excavation, demolition of existing structures, and construction activities.
 - Vehicle movements on-site and delivery of materials.
- **Construction Traffic:**
 - Increased vehicle emissions from construction equipment and deliveries, including NO₂ and PM₁₀.

B. Operational Phase

- **Traffic Emissions:**
 - Additional vehicle trips generated by the new offices and warehouse extension.
 - **Heating and Energy Use:**
 - Potential emissions from any new heating, ventilation, or air conditioning systems.
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4. Mitigation Measures

A. Construction Phase

To minimise impacts during construction, the following measures will be implemented:

1. **Dust Suppression:**
 - Use water sprays or misting systems during demolition and excavation activities.
 - Cover stockpiles of materials to prevent wind-blown dust.
2. **Vehicle Emissions:**
 - Ensure construction vehicles meet modern emissions standards (Euro VI or equivalent).
 - Implement a Construction Traffic Management Plan to minimize traffic disruptions.
3. **Site Management:**
 - Restrict on-site activities to designated hours to reduce disruption.
 - Maintain a clean site, with regular road sweeping and cleaning to prevent dust on nearby roads.

B. Operational Phase

To mitigate potential air quality impacts during operation:

1. **Sustainable Transport:**
 - Encourage the use of public transport, car sharing, and cycling for employees.
 - Install electric vehicle (EV) charging points in parking areas.
 2. **Energy Efficiency:**
 - Use energy-efficient systems for heating, cooling, and lighting to minimize emissions from building operations.
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5. Assessment of Impacts

A. Construction Phase

- **Dust and Particulate Matter:**
 - With the proposed mitigation measures, dust and PM impacts are expected to be negligible and localized, confined to the immediate vicinity of the site.
- **Traffic Emissions:**
 - Construction traffic will contribute minimally to local NO₂ and PM₁₀ levels due to limited vehicle numbers and the temporary nature of construction.

B. Operational Phase

- **Traffic Emissions:**

- The increase in vehicle movements is anticipated to be minor. Based on traffic data projections, the development is unlikely to significantly affect local air quality.
- EV charging points will offset emissions from employee and visitor vehicles.

- **Overall Air Quality:**

- The operational emissions are expected to comply with national air quality objectives and have a negligible impact on sensitive receptors.
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6. Conclusion

The proposed development at GNG Foam Converters, Littleborough, is not expected to result in any significant adverse impacts on local air quality, provided the recommended mitigation measures are implemented. The development complies with Rochdale Borough Council's air quality policies and national standards.

Recommendations:

1. Adopt the proposed mitigation measures during construction and operation.
2. Monitor construction activities to ensure compliance with dust and emissions controls.

By implementing these measures, the project can proceed with minimal impact on the surrounding environment.