

Catherine Nutting  
Clerk  
Plaistow and Ifold Parish Council  
By email

**Our ref:**

**Your ref:**

**Date:** 23 December 2020

Dear Catherine

Thank you for email of 08 December 2020 containing your letter regarding the tragic incident at Avonmouth. We appreciate that this might raise concern in your community regarding gas at 'Lagoon 3' at Crouchlands Farm. You enclose the Environment Agency's letter to you of 20 December 2019, which should be read alongside with this response.

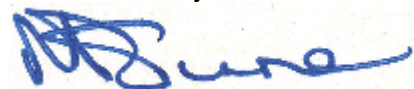
We continue to be concerned by the risk posed by the Lagoon 3 to the environment. The responsibility for clearing the lagoon rests with the landowner. There is no requirement for the Environment Agency to remove the digestate itself and is not resourced to do so. We and our partners are ready at all times to respond to incidents, to protect the community, property and to reduce any impact of an incident on the environment.

The multi-agency partners (under Sussex Resilience Forum) carried out an inspection of Lagoon 3 on 22 October 2020. They concluded that the risk of spillage of digestate from the lagoon and likely severity of impacts has not changed. I understand that Chichester District Council will brief you separately regarding air quality and public health and will reiterate the presence of hazards at Lagoon 3 to Artemis Land.

The multi-agency partners aim to continue to carry out quarterly inspections. This site does not have an environmental permit which would pay for this work. The Environment Agency has limited resources which we will continue to focus on the highest risks to the wider environment, within our remit.

I trust that this answers your questions. Should you wish to raise further matters, please write to [SSDEnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:SSDEnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk). Should any member of the community see an environmental incident, they should report it to 0800 80 70 60.

Yours sincerely



**MICHAEL TURNER**  
**Area Environment Manager**  
**Solent & South Downs**

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