

Statement by
Hon. Robert Pickersgill, M.P.
Minister of Water, Land, Environment & Climate Change
Regarding Noxious Fumes

I have been advised by the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) that at approximately 2:00 p.m. today (Wednesday, November 14, 2012) they received numerous telephone calls from concerned persons along the Marcus Garvey Drive, Spanish Town Road, Molynes Road and the Hagley Park Road areas complaining of a sharp noxious odour permeating the atmosphere.

The callers complained of headache, sore throat, nausea, itching skin, burning eyes and in some cases coughing. The odour was described as similar to that of burning oil, burning dirt and sulphuric acid.

NEPA has advised me that after plotting the wind direction it was determined that the odour was strongest along Marcus Garvey Drive in the vicinity of Petrojam and the Industrial Chemical Company (ICC).

Consequently a response team from NEPA was immediately dispatched and assessed the PETROJAM and ICC facilities, the Caterpillar Complex on Spanish Town Road and the Dome on Hagley Park Road. The team also visited and interviewed residents in the Greenwich Farm Community.

The Chief Executive Officer of NEPA, Peter Knight, has confirmed that air quality testing has been erected in the Spanish Town Road and Hagley Park Road areas in an effort to identify the cause of the fumes..

I am advised that so far nothing definite has been found but the investigation continues and I will provide a further update tomorrow.

Robert Pickersgill, M.P.

Minister

November 14, 2012