

## New Chief Executive

Paul Blackler, having worked for Augean for the last seven years; five in the role as Chief Executive Officer, has left the company. Over his tenure as Chief Executive, Paul led the company through some significant changes and development in the company infrastructure in order to better meet modern approaches to specialist waste management.

The Board of Directors has appointed Dr Stewart Davies as his successor. Stewart has joined Augean from Romec Ltd where he has been Managing Director. He has worked in the industrial services sector

for leading companies like Serco, Corus and Rugby Cement. Stewart is also a Governing Member on the Technology Strategy Board, the UK's national innovation agency which aims to accelerate economic growth by stimulating and supporting business led innovation. He will be taking up his post in August 2013.

In the interim, the role of Chief Executive Officer is being taken by Richard Allen, the Finance Director. Richard will control day to day operational and commercial matters and ensure a smooth transition when Stewart takes up his post.

## Planning Update

**Augean are coming to the end of a series of planning applications for sites in the Northamptonshire and Peterborough areas**

### East Northants Resource Management Facility

A report and recommendation by the Planning Inspectorate on the application for the development of new void space at ENRMF was submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government at the end of April. His decision will be announced by the end of July 2013.

The application was considered as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. A six month examination process has given the planning inspector an opportunity to scrutinise all aspects of the application in rigorous detail and take account of important and relevant matters that have been raised during the consultation process. A number of publicly accessible meetings were held in Kings Cliffe and attended by members of the local community.

An application to continue site operations in the currently permitted part of ENRMF as well as the operation of the soil treatment and recycling facility until 2016 was granted planning permission by Northamptonshire County Council in late September 2012.

Engineering of a new landfill cell has started. The requirements of modern landfill construction to ensure the proper containment of wastes are exacting and require expert design and engineering standards that need approval by the Environment Agency. Once excavations are complete Augean will be inviting members of the local community to come and see the different engineering phases as they are being constructed. In the meantime please ring our helpline on 01904 654989 if you would like further information.

### Thornhaugh

In November 2012 Peterborough City Council unanimously approved the application to extend the operational life of Thornhaugh Landfill Site until December 2029.

The site will be progressively restored as each phase is completed to finally create a nature conservation area. This will complement the adjacent Bedford Purlieus which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The planning committee were pleased that wildlife would be protected during site operations and were enthusiastic about the reintroduction of wildlife to improve biodiversity in the area.

The detail of the site restoration scheme will be agreed in the near future. Augean hopes that planting the restored areas of the site can begin by Spring 2014. Recently some new newt ponds have been created on the site. It is expected that the footpath to the north of the site which links the A43 to Bedford Purlieus will be open for public access by the end of the summer.

## Community Fund

**Through the Landfill Communities Fund Augean contributes to the funding of many projects in the areas near to their landfill sites.**

The South West England Environmental Trust (SWEET) manages the funds for the East Northants Resource Management Facility and for Thornhaugh Landfill Site. The funds are distributed through the



Kings Cliffe Environmental Association (KCEA) and the Thornhaugh Environmental Association (TEA). Both associations are voluntary steering groups who are committed to supporting local projects.

£10,500 was granted by KCEA to Easton on the Hill towards youth facilities for the village which includes a teen shelter with solar lighting and a basketball goal. The project was designed with support from the Local Police Safer Community Team to provide local young people with a meeting place of their own.

A grant of over £15,000 has been given by TEA to support Wittering Academy Riding Club. The grant enabled the Club to purchase a full set of adjustable cross-country fences, a trailer, timing equipment and a storage container. The riding club now offers training and competitions at all levels and other local clubs can hire the equipment so that the maximum number of riders can benefit. The club was established in 2007 with the primary objective to help riders of all ages and abilities to achieve their equestrian ambitions. The club is affiliated to British Riding Clubs (BRC) and won local qualifiers in 2012 for 3 teams to compete at BRC national finals in April.

**KCEA and TEA are keen to welcome new enquiries about project funding from potential applicants. Please contact Alison Southern at SWEET who will be pleased to answer any questions about the scheme.**  
**KCEA/SWEET, Victoria House, 51 Victoria Street**  
**Bristol BS1 6AD**  
**Tel: 0117 904 5875**  
**E-mail [sweet@lyonsdavidson.co.uk](mailto:sweet@lyonsdavidson.co.uk)**  
**Website [www.sweet-uk.com/kcea](http://www.sweet-uk.com/kcea)**

## New treatment facilities on Teesside

The concept of the Waste Recovery Park, adjacent to the Port Clarence landfill and the soil treatment and recycling facility, is to manage hazardous wastes in an integrated way which optimises recovery and treatment and minimises the disposal of waste to landfill all within one site. This one-stop approach reduces the environmental impact of transporting hazardous waste.

The Environment Agency has approved the plans for the specialist construction of a new hazardous waste landfill cell at the site. The high standards of an engineered containment that are required ensure that human health and the environment are protected.

As an integral part of the Waste Recovery Park concept a new chemical treatment facility is being developed. Once operational safety studies have been completed the tanks will be commissioned to process acid wastes by early July. The introduction of treatment for this waste stream has created two new jobs.

By using the process of Indirect Thermal Desorption (ITD) to treat off-shore drill cuttings, oil is being recovered at a rate of about one tanker load per week. The oil recovered can be used as a fuel or lubricant while the solid residues are recovered as soil or aggregate. The ITD is the only one of its kind operating in the UK and is an essential part of supporting North Sea Services in the development of its services. The site is also generating electricity through recovery of landfill gas.



## New industrial services

The Oil and Gas division have been developing the industrial services offered at the sites in Avonmouth and Paisley which complement site facilities and processes.

As a site with expertise in the specialist treatment of oil contaminated liquid wastes and hazardous chemicals, Avonmouth has just opened its new tanker washing facility as part of the divisional development of industrial cleaning services. In order to enter into a tanker to clean the interior it is vital that staff are trained to use specialist equipment such as breathing apparatus, safety harnesses, personal protective equipment as well as to carry out risk assessments and understand safe systems of working. Once staff have had additional training, Augean hope to further extend the services currently offered at the Avonmouth site.

The team at Paisley have well established tank cleaning and jetting services available through the site. As at Avonmouth, any wastes generated as a result of cleaning can be treated on-site at Paisley or at other sites within the Augean group.



## Supporting oil and gas exploration in the North Sea

The joint venture that has created Augean North Sea Services has opened up opportunities in an exciting and challenging field, especially with licences for new exploration in West Shetland now being issued.

The requirement to provide a range of methods to support the treatment, recovery, recycling or disposal of differing wastes from off-shore companies is an excellent demonstration of the integrated waste management system advocated by Augean. The principle operational activity is managing drilling wastes from off-shore platforms. These can be managed in a variety of ways. The use of the ITD process at the Waste Recovery Park at Port Clarence allows recovered oil to be put back into beneficial use. Paisley also provides support to North Sea Services through its waste treatment processes and as a transfer station.

The company is now based at three sites around the Aberdeen area including a facility at Poca Quay in the Port of Aberdeen, which provides specialist industrial cleaning service to remove contaminated slops from the storage tanks of Platform Supply Vessels docking at the quay.

## The Teesside Environmental Trust administers Landfill Community Fund for Port Clarence

Port Clarence Landfill site continues to contribute to the Saltholme International Nature Reserve which is run by the RSPB through the Teesside Environmental Trust. The project has been supported by Augean since 2004, and has transformed what was an area of industrial waste land into a wild flower meadow.



Saltholme encourages participation at the site by holding themed events, running educational and access programmes, and improving facilities that attract a wide range of members of the local community. A Mad Hatters picnic area has been created, and some wooden play equipment will be installed shortly to enhance the lake walk which is very popular with families. Over the winter months 200 cheviot sheep have been grazing the site in an effort to control the growth of ragwort. On-site lambing open days have been held this spring.

The community educational officer runs a number of youth groups; Saltholme Little Explorers, Wildlife Explorers and Phoenix for older children, to encourage an interest in wildlife and the environment. Over the winter months the community outreach team have seen nearly 2000 children in schools in the area. To find out more or to visit the site please go to [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)



# Augean meets safety challenges

The waste management industry has a poor record for safety management. Augean does not accept that this should be the case for its sites or for its personnel. Here we talk to Dr Gene Wilson, Group Technical Director about Augean's approach to meeting the challenge of ensuring safe practice across the company's operational sites. Augean has taken the opposite approach, confident that there is an achievable balance between profitability and high standards. Ultimately the safest company is also the successful company.



## “Augean deals with hazardous wastes; does that make it a dangerous environment to work in?”



One might think so but in practice it is not the case. The hazards are greater but the risks are much more tightly controlled. Recognising the hazards involved with any waste stream is the most important factor in minimising the risks. It is probably important to make

a distinction between the municipal or domestic waste collection system and the specialist sector that Augean operates in. Particularly when dealing with municipal wastes, workers come into contact with a variety of materials and are subject to risks that are not within the direct control of their employers. Although all Augean's divisions treat some very difficult to manage wastes, the company is at an advantage in that we are able to have effective control of all wastes that come to our sites through our waste acceptance management systems. All wastes are carefully checked and assessed by the technical and laboratory services teams so that the exact chemical and physical properties of each waste stream is well understood and the best solution for safe treatment or disposal is established in advance. This diligence considerably reduces risks to everyone involved. Of course this has to be underpinned by good corporate governance and so we operate an effective Integrated Management System. This system is certified by an external auditor, the British Standards Institute.

## “How do you control your waste processes?”

Our occupational health monitoring shows good performance but we also need to monitor process safety. Over the past few years the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have encouraged the development of a system of indicators regarding process safety performance at Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) sites. These are well established at our only COMAH site at Avonmouth and are consistently monitored to show that safety precautions are working. Augean feels that this approach is so valuable that we are adopting the system at our other sites even though they do not fall within the COMAH regime. This initiative is supported and monitored by the company Process Safety Group. Every new process is subject to strict risk assessments and safety studies.

## “How is Augean improving its health and safety performance?”

We take our responsibilities for the health, safety and welfare of our employees very seriously. While thankfully accidents that have fallen into the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) category is low, with only four needing reporting and of those only one serious injury compromising a fracture, it is

nevertheless a priority that everyone who has a responsibility for the health and safety of others takes a proactive approach. Following a campaign led by the management team over the last year, near miss reporting has doubled and there has been a reduction in accidents by 40 per cent. Site managers are the driving force in ensuring that safety is improved and that there is a culture of awareness that involves all personnel. Key safety issues are tackled through monthly safety campaigns. We try to find different and innovative ways of engaging the interest of our employees means that no-one becomes complacent. The company has recognised that good training is really important. In 2012, Augean appointed a Group Training Manager to coordinate training and maintain and increase the competency of our staff. We are really proud of the fact that all employees have achieved the British Safety Council level 1 training certificate in 2012. We hope that these initiatives will help us reach our target in 2013 for a 25 per cent reduction in accidents at all our operational sites.

## “You seem to have a lot of ‘near misses’ at your sites; that sounds worrying. What is a near miss?”

We record all accidents however minor and take action to prevent recurrence. However it is just as important to record and take action over accidents that don't quite happen and where poor practice is identified. These could be as simple a box in front of a fire escape or a trip hazard from a trailing cable. Research has shown that by reporting near misses there is a better understanding of potential problems and so action can be taken before something serious happens. It also helps develop safety awareness in the workforce. In 2012 we doubled our near miss reporting but also reduced our accidents by 40 per cent showing the success that the scheme has had. In 2013 we are looking to continue to improve our performance and so to complement the near miss reporting we have introduced safe act reporting and safety awards. These initiatives recognise the benefit of positive reinforcement of good safety practice and behaviours. We have also introduced a Promoting Best Practice Forum in which best practice approaches are shared between all parts of the Group.



## “How is Augean involved in improving safety within the waste industry?”

As a company we aspire not only to follow and comply with regulatory standards but to initiate and lead industry best practice. We have made a commitment to working towards the delivery of the Strategy for the Waste Management and Recycling Industry 2012-2015 which has been recently launched by the Health and Safety Executive. By being a part of the HSE scheme we are able to feed-back about incidents that have happened, and the way Augean has dealt with them, so that the company contributes to safety learning and best practice across the whole industry.

# Managing waste efficiently and responsibly

The Waste Network sites and their attached specialist laboratory services work with clients to provide the best methods for treatment to recycle, recover or reuse waste or to dispose of wastes. This meets the increased demand for high environmental standards and responsibility.

Over the past few years there have been significant changes in policy and legislation designed to limit the amount and types of wastes sent to landfill and to encourage an increase in recycling, reuse or recovery of waste. There is also a greater customer and public interest in sustainable methods of waste disposal, which is a further incentive for companies like Augean to be innovative in their approach to waste management.

One of the most effective ways to minimise the environmental impact of waste is to understand its exact composition. The laboratory assessment of wastes before they are accepted for treatment or disposal allows them to be accurately characterised using state of the art analytical techniques. This enables Augean to provide the best solution for the management of the waste stream in accordance with environmental regulation and controls.

To complement the existing waste management operations at the East Kent Waste Recovery Facility, the site has developed its own laboratory services team creating an increase in permanent staff.

A new on-site technical assessor at Hinckley means that the site can monitor in-coming waste on a daily basis which allows the site to be responsive if changes need to be made to the waste management programme to ensure the most sustainable method of treatment or disposal.

The company has a specialist service for the collection treatment or disposal of small quantities of chemical

laboratory wastes from schools, universities, hospitals and manufacturing. The laboratory waste service has outstanding re-use and recovery rates. One customer has had an increase of recycled waste from 25% in 2011 to 74% in 2012 through the Augean service.

The network of transfer facilities has the capability to handle a wide range of wastes. Small quantities of particular waste streams can be sorted, segregated and stored on-site before onward transfer in viable quantities for further treatment or disposal. This efficient approach to logistics considerably reduces transport movements.

Earlier this year the strategic decision was taken to merge the site operations of Cannock and Worcester to the site in Cannock, which is now the largest waste transfer station in the company. To safely manage the increased volumes of waste the storage yard has been re-configured and a number of upgrades made to existing buildings. In order to integrate the sales team with the operational site, the administrative office is now on-site at Cannock.

Augean seeks continuous improvement in the services it provides by introducing new processes and technologies and regularly reviewing that it delivers best available solutions for waste management. A number of teams within the company examine ways of improving existing techniques and ways of increasing the recycling and reuse of waste following treatment.



To report any concerns regarding our sites or to arrange for a site visit so that you can see our operations first-hand, please contact the relevant site manager.

**Aberdeen – Simon Gibb**

Tel: 01274 719200

**Avonmouth – Tim Young**

Tel: 01179 820303

**Hinckley – James Cooper**

Tel: 01455 631777

**Cannock – Andrew Waterhouse**

Tel: 01543 468832

**East Kent – Andy Scorer**

Tel: 01304 450010

**ENRMF / Thornhaugh – Simon Moyle**

Tel: 01780 444900

**Paisley – Gary Richards**

Tel: 0141 8875689

**Rochdale – Assed Zaman**

Tel: 01706 641044

**Port Clarence Landfill – Terry Blanchard**

**Waste Recovery Park – Paul Lealman**

Tel: 01642 546836

All sites can be contacted by email at:

[info@augeanplc.com](mailto:info@augeanplc.com)

## Investing in greener, safer transport

Augean operate a specialist fleet of vehicles. These are designed to ensure that difficult to manage wastes are transported safely from the point of collection by drivers experienced and trained to high standards. This minimises risks to people and the environment.

Augean have recently updated their transport fleet to new Scania vehicles. All these vehicles are fitted with the latest Euro 5 420 power plants that conform to the new high efficiency low carbon footprint requirements. Following a recommendation by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) these vehicles are fitted with the latest on board tracking systems. The operational team know at any given time the vehicle location and can inform customers of expected delivery or collection times. More efficient routing which enables savings on fuel, time and energy decreases the carbon footprint of the company. Tracked vehicles also add to the security of any hazardous waste loads carried. All the company's drivers are trained in accordance with the ADR regulations and have attended courses to gain the necessary license.

A new Moffett trailer has also been added to the fleet. This has an on-board fork-lift truck for use at premises where there may not be a fork-lift on site reducing the risk of manual handling injuries. Training for this particular type of service has recently been carried out for all drivers.