

Climate Change Committee Meeting - 9th. May 2024
Statement – Merthyr (South Wales) Limited

Since the cessation of the mining operation in November 2023, Merthyr (South Wales) Limited continues to manage the Ffos-y Fran site to comply with Health & Safety Executive guidelines under The Quarries Regulations 1999.

Post closure of the mining operation the Company selected personnel with some combined 250 years of surface mining experience to form the core of the sites C&M (Care & Maintenance) team. The C&M team are responsible for routinely monitoring all safety and environmental aspects of the site, including water levels and water quality.

The C&M team complete daily checks of the water quality to ensure the water discharges are within consent limits set by NRW (Natural Resources Wales). This is supported with a quarterly water testing programme agreed with NRW. Water samples are tested by an accredited laboratory for a comprehensive suite of determinants. Results indicate there are no determinants that raise a cause for concern to the water environment.

All analytical data is either submitted to NRW or made available for inspection on routine site visits at their request.

Ground Water levels under the guidance of a consultant hydrogeologist, are being monitored on a regular basis, within the mine and are reviewed with NRW and MTCBC (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)

Following one of the wettest winters on record ground water levels have stabilised around the levels monitored prior to commencing mining operations on the site.

Recent trend indicates a fall in water levels, this will be monitored throughout the summer months to establish if there is, as anticipated, a seasonal change in the ground water level, within the range previously monitored.

Therefore, ground water levels remain some 200 feet (60 metres) below the lowest natural ground level located to the North of the site.

Following consultation MSW have reached a formal agreement with MTCBC to commence an interim restoration programme of works for the site, which is due to commence in early May 2024.

MSW have engaged the services of several external consultants, specialists in their field, to prepare a revised restoration plan. MSW continues to discuss with MTCBC and all relevant key stakeholders progress on the revised restoration plan.

Therefore, it would be inappropriate to comment further until the revised restoration plan has been finalised and submitted to MTCBC for their consideration.