

## Notes from CLP Meeting 14/10/19 – Meeting 12

**Adoption of Notes from Meeting 12** – The BACI representative felt unable to agree the notes as it was felt that some of the issues brought up by BACI had not been included in the notes. The facilitator explained that the issues in question had been brought up and answered in previous meetings and so it wasn't felt to be of benefit to repeat them. There was some discussion around this and it was agreed that they should be repeated as some members were new to the CLP.

**Environment Agency** – The EA representative was asked if the EA monitor the construction phase for possible pollution. No but the operator is encouraged to report any incidents that could lead to pollution issues. The EA rep had made an unannounced visit in August – there were no issues or concerns raised at that visit.

Q – Waste will be bulked up at Veolia transfer stations – are the waste streams audited? Veolia know where the waste is coming from and what type of waste it is. They quarantine and reject any unacceptable waste. There is a waste acceptance protocol. We were assured that the waste coming into the EfW facility would be inspected when it was being mixed in the pit. Upstream handlers of waste are subject to their own permits and inspections by local authorities and the EA.

There was discussion about the fact that emissions from the stack could exceed acceptable levels for up to 4 hours at a time. This is to allow the operator to identify the cause of the breach and to rectify it. If the plant was to be closed down immediately, the incinerator would need to be shut off and the re-started which is a lengthy process during which emissions could be even worse than those that had caused the initial breach. If the matter has not been resolved within the 4 hour window, the plant should be shut down. Breaches of the emission levels could happen up to 60 hours in a year. If the same cause is identified for several breaches, the EA would investigate and enforce changes as necessary. Covanta would have to report a breach within 24 hours. The EA can't enforce continuous monitoring; they rely on the operator to report. It was confirmed that Covanta's Dublin plant publicises its emissions data as close to real time as possible; this site would operate under the same guidelines.

**Construction update** – The 24/7 working permission had been extended to December 2019 to take account of any over-running operations that required a continuous process; power floating slabs, crane operations affected by high winds, etc. The site and surroundings have continuous noise monitoring and neighbours are informed of night working. Noise monitoring outputs are sent to Beds Borough. Jack Stitt (?) is the project manager on site. When they lose work time to high winds, they try to catch up at weekends or overnight if possible.

Construction traffic; 30 vehicle movements each way per day currently, increasing to 80 each way during times of continuous concrete pours. Concrete is produced in the on-site

batching plant but the aggregate needs to be brought onto the site. This only happens during daytime working hours.

The 3 stacks will be bound together to look like a single stack. Terracotta colour to match brick chimneys. 105m tall. Wind turbine is 86m to hub and 120m to tip of blade when at top of its rotation.

Waste bunker is complete. Piling is complete. Underground services are nearly finished. UKPN grid connection progressing along Green Lane. AW water main coming from Stewartby.

Civil engineering will continue till mid-2020, mechanical and electrical engineering during 2020. This will involve some oversize vehicle movements when large component parts are brought onto site. There will be advance notice of this. Boiler testing towards the end of 2020, hot commissioning end 2020, cold commissioning early 2021, testing 2021 and operation 2022.

Beds Borough representative confirmed that there had been a survey of local roads prior to the commencement of construction and these are carried out annually so that any damage caused by Covanta traffic will need to be corrected by the operator.

There is a video on the project website showing the construction in time-lapse pictures. Covanta intend to produce one on a quarterly basis.

The issue of the lighting on the site at night was brought up. Jack advised that if there was no out of hours or overnight work taking place, the site should only have minimal lighting. It was confirmed by several members that the site is lit up like a fairground each and every night. He would look into it.

IBA – Bottom Ash can't be stored in open bunkers. There is no planning permission for a self-contained building so it will be sent off site. Planning consent or a change to the DCO will be needed if Covanta do decide to store the bottom ash on site. Current plan is for it to be bulked up on site and to be sent to treatment plants, probably in the East Midlands area. This is then sold on and used in road construction.

Fly Ash will be sent offsite in sealed containers to a specialist Veolia facility north of Birmingham.

There is a video of the construction available on line :  
<https://vimeo.com/skyglideuas/review/362788148/4c77bd4c5f> - well worth a watch.

**Newsletter** – should go out by month end to 7,795 homes. This will cover details and timescales of construction, advertise supply chain opportunities, etc. The Newsletter will also be sent as an e-newsletter to local Parish Clerks.

**Employment Data** – Currently 31 employees from Beds Borough, 21 from CBC, 57 from within 25-mile radius and 385 from more than 25-mile radius. 220 British nationals, 200 EU nationals and 64 non-EU nationals. This is for the construction stage. Once operational, the site will employ 50-60 personnel.

**Plastic for combustion?** – it was asked if a certain percentage of plastic was needed to provide calorific value for efficient combustion. The question was asked as there is a big general push to reduce the amount of plastic in society and therefore in waste. The answer was that plastic was not required and that a reduction in the amount of plastic in the waste stream would help.

**World Queen's Commonwealth Canopy Wildlife Area** – The Marston Vale has been designated as such; 1 of 4 in the UK. The question was asked of the Marston Forest representative whether the EfW plant would damage the area. It is not expected to damage the local area.

**Next meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

Website : [www.rookerysouth.co.uk](http://www.rookerysouth.co.uk)