

I wish to register a number of significant objections to this proposed development by MVV and its proposed site at Medworth, Wisbech.

1 - It will be located in an area which produces some 30% of the UK's agricultural produce, this development risks the pollution of a key UK resource for food production and processing. This has become even more critical to the UK as we face increase food security and supply issues as outlined in Government Documents driven by Climate Conditions, Biodiversity, Soil Degradation and Water Supply. Please see - THE UK FOOD SECURITY REPORT Date 2021 22nd December Dept For Environment and Rural Affairs. The area surrounding Wisbech contains a significant area of Grade 1 agricultural land. Any emissions from the incinerator risks damaging and degrading the soil, land and water in this area of National Importance. Waste emissions will include harmful Dioxins, toxins, heavy metals and carcinogenic particles i.e. those smaller than 2.5µm.

2 - There is no local source of waste material that can sustain the supply of materials for this large incineration. It will need to be supplied via a significant fleet of HGV's travelling large distances across England, upto 200 miles has been suggested. This is itself is a highly polluting method of transport. Of greater concern is the unacceptable impact of in excess of 300 lorry movements every day will have on the existing poor road infrastructure in Fenland and to the Medworth site. The major roads are already struggling to cope with traffic especially at key times of the year:

Harvest and Crop management periods which involves significant tractor movements

Holiday periods as Wisbech lies on key routes to Lincolnshire and Norfolk holiday destinations

Transport via tractors of waste required for Bio Mass facilities at March and Chatteris.

Due to the nature of the Fens i.e. marshland, the key roads are subject to considerable repair and maintenance regimes, again causing traffic delays.

Fenland as a food production region requires road transport to deliver its produce to markets by HGV's and facilitate transport to central areas of UK from rural production facilities in Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire.

A number of roads would be unsuitable for the additional HGV traffic required to feed the MVV Medworth site due location of villages and the width of the roads/sharp bends. I was surprised MVV have not identified exactly which roads their HGV can use and those that will be avoided, given the length of the consultation they claim to have undertaken.

The addition of their traffic for this Energy From Waste (EFW) will gridlock Wisbech and its surrounding roads negatively impacting the road safety risks in the area and significantly damaging existing farming/commercial operations.

3 - The site is to be situated in a location which is close to schools, a college and existing/proposed housing. The location of the EFW facility represents a major health hazard to Wisbech and Fenland from emissions and waste products caused by incineration. At their similar, but much smaller Plymouth Site, MVV have documented receipt of noise and smells/vile odour complaints from nearby residents, Medworth is a major EFW its proximity to such schools, homes and businesses can only damage Wisbech irrevocably. Any notion the town had of becoming a Garden Town or a town that is attractive to new residents would be severely damaged. In addition a number of local businesses have indicated they will be impacted and may have to move from Wisbech!

4 - Visually this exceptionally large construction will dominate in a negative way the town of Wisbech. The scale of the building and its chimney stacks are out of scale with the town. The Georgian Heritage of the town will be lost against a backdrop of such a massive structure. The very flat nature of the Fenland landscape is no place to site an exceptionally large EFW facility.

5 - The EFW process is a major health risk and as such is totally unsuitable for locating in Wisbech or the Fenland area. Nottinghamshire.gov.uk Health Effect of Waste Incinerators 2008 concludes that waste incineration increases cases of Cancer, Heart Disease, causes an increases in death rates. Due to presence of known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors and

substances that can attach to genes, alter behaviour, damage immune systems and decrease intelligence. The report also details issues with ash produced by incineration which is highly toxic. The report also concludes no further Waste Incinerators should be built.

The site will also require the storage of large amounts of waste material to support feeding the 50MW generation. This will by its very nature be a source of foul smells and air pollution. Its closeness to schools, colleges and residents would be unacceptable.

6 - There are significant doubts that this mega incinerator will ever produce 50MW of electrical power. Already a similar facility in Suffolk is reported in the press of having difficulty sourcing sufficient waste materials for incineration. This is occurring due to increased recycling of waste, improved methods of recovering recyclable materials from waste sent for incineration. These views are supported by a number waste and environmental experts including the previous head of the Environment Agency. An additional fact is that there is already overcapacity in the EFW facilities market in the UK such that the UK cannot produce enough waste for EFW purposes and meet its recycling commitments. This in addition to improved methods now available for recovery of materials from waste are depleting the energy source for this proposal. In short this facility is not required at all. I would urge the Planning Inspector to thoroughly investigate if this EFW is actually needed.

7 - Construction Phase. The MVV documents submitted on construction describe a lengthy and disruptive construction period. Work will be from 0700hrs for 12 hours 5 days a week with a marginally shorter working day on Saturdays. Additionally each working day will have an added 2 hours of preparation and closedown activities. A number of significant building operations will need to operate on a 24 hour basis. Core construction will last at least 34 months. MVV have detailed a number of major roadworks will be required to install cables and piping.

The impact of this major construction will produce significant noise and disruption to the Schools, residents and Wisbech. The ability of the town to function will be damaged, the mental and physical health of inhabitants will be significantly affected by such a long duration of extended heavy construction. The impact on the local schools and college will be especially damaging to staff and pupils. The construction will be particularly noisy and damaging due to the extensive use of heavy machinery (which also have to emit annoying reversing beeps required for Health and Safety), piling operations, heavy building techniques over extended periods including overnight.

The construction will require a major workforce to be in place, MVV have quoted various figures from 300 to 500. Where and how will these people be accommodated without affected the existing needs for seasonal workers required to support the UK's food production and processing needs both in and around Fenland? MVV appear to have skipped discussion on this critical UK and Fenland issue. Therefore this is a major risk to not only Wisbech but to the UK food production needs.

The vehicular impact, over 4 year construction period, of transporting large numbers of building staff to and from site, delivery of site materials and EFW components for a major construction will significantly damage the ability of Wisbech to operate for both its inhabitants and businesses. The strain on the people of Fenland will be a major risk to the physical and mental health in the area.

8 - Wildlife. The area in and around Fenland are internationally important for bird migration. The Wash and the Ouse Washes are particularly important. Given the UK Governments commitments to improve Nature and stop its decline we should be doing everything possible to avoid risking further degradation of wildlife habitats. The building of such a large and polluting facility will damage these international habitats. It will undermine the efforts of both the government and local initiatives to secure nature in this naturally rich UK resource. Impacts will be caused by its physical presence, pollution in both the atmosphere and the soil, risk of pollution the waterways.

9 - Why would you want to build a Facility of National Importance on a flood plain? Surely if this was required and you had a choice a safer place would have been found? As we have increasingly become aware, climate change is challenging what was considered as statistical norms for flood risks. This must be considered by the planning inspector. A number of models are showing significant risks of flooding to the East of England area especially the Fenland area. So given that MVV could have selected any site in the UK for a development of National Importance,

why choose a flood plain?