



11 July 2023

Interested Person 20032845
Wisbech Medworth Proposed Incinerator – EN010110

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing to register my total opposition to the above proposed incinerator for the following reasons: -

1. The area proposed for the incinerator is only accessed by single carriageway roads, one of which is the A47. This being the area's main road, it currently struggles to handle the volume of traffic it already carries and is often gridlocked purely through its inability to cope with the **existing** level of traffic. Should there be a minor incident on this road, which is a fairly regular occurrence, the area comes to a complete standstill with hardly any viable alternative diversions. Given the tonnage this mega incinerator will require for continuous operation, we understand that it will need 300 lorry movements/day, 365 days a year to meet this operational level. In my opinion, with this additional traffic volume, the area will come to a complete standstill.
2. The aforementioned does not take into consideration the noise and pollution from this extra traffic. The A47 already has heavy lorry movements, being one of the area's main links to the east coast ports. Once the waste lorries arrive in Wisbech they will still have to access the actual site on local roads. The proposed incinerator site is located on an existing small industrial area with narrow, badly maintained access roads (one of which has had several sink holes and burst sewer pipes over the past few years). These local roads already have a large number of lorries delivering to the factories etc. Coupled with the fact that there are three schools close by, the biggest being the Thomas Clarkson Academy which is only 750m, residential properties, an eye clinic, agricultural land and a tidal river. All the aforementioned locations are totally contrary to the World Health Organisation's Best Practice recommendations for the siting of incinerators.
3. There is also the problem of the incinerated waste i.e. ashes and residual slag. The ashes will contain elements like heavy metals and dioxins and these toxic pollutants can leach into groundwater, rivers and soil which, as I understand, will have to go to landfill and will require further major waste management. As you are no doubt well aware, The Fens is largely given over to agriculture and crops and soil will be affected by the emissions from this mega incinerator.

4. The other major problem with the proposed site means the incinerator will be built on a Zone 3 flood plain which is the highest flood risk. Given recent flooding situations within the UK because of global warming, it does seem rather surprising that something which produces carbon dioxide emissions and toxic waste is being put in an area where flooding is possible. This being exacerbated by the recognised problem of rising sea levels over an area which has already been reclaimed from the sea.
5. The proposed incinerator will be twice the size of the one which was put forward for Kings Lynn, which incidentally was rejected by the local council, and the chimney will be 95m high. Aesthetically, this will be an inescapable blot on the landscape because of the flat nature of the fens. It will also be totally out of scale with any of the surrounding buildings and will be visible for miles around.

I was given to understand by Mr Carey during one of the public consultation meetings during lockdown, that carbon capture technology had not been considered for this project. The filtration system, in my view, appeared at that time to be totally inadequate. I was also very surprised that the filters themselves are not changed very often. The timescale stated was somewhere in the order of 12-14 years. Also, in my view, the type of filter being used will not prevent pm 2.5 particulates being emitted from the stack. These particulates will contain heavy metals which will be carried deep into the lungs to cause lasting damage. Surely the wellbeing and health of the people within the 25-mile radius plume, should be uppermost in the planning decision.

In the last few days, the proposed Boston incinerator has been given the go-ahead. This surely brings into question the sustainability of the Medworth proposal given that Boston is only 28 miles away. As I understand it, MVV will need to import refuse from far and wide to feed the proposed mega incinerator which obviously questions the need/capacity of another incinerator in the area.

It would be interesting to understand why all companies involved with incinerators always look to site these monstrosities in areas which are obviously deprived rather than siting them in areas that will not cause so many issues with regard to health and wellbeing.

Yours sincerely

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Derek Bull