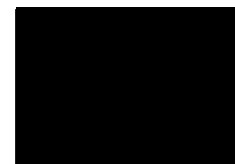


Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery
Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero
3 – 8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2 AW



8th February 2024

Dear John Wheadon,

Interested Party Ref: 20033419

I am writing in response to your letter dated 29 January 2024, requesting comments on the responses received.

I understand that responses from some parties are still outstanding. It is therefore not appropriate for this application by the Medworth CHP Limited to be given planning permission as the implications of such a largescale infrastructure project cannot be fully considered.

I am wholly against this application on a number of grounds as follows:

1. The increased heavy vehicle traffic will place unbearable strain on the community and cause deadlock to local roads in and around the town. Wisbech already has over the national average of lorry traffic servicing the factories and local and wider population. The roads servicing this need will not be able to service this additional need as we do not have the infrastructure and current roads are already buckling and falling apart due to the nature of movement of the reclaimed Fenland.
2. The local practice of processing waste in the area involves recycling. An incinerator goes against this and could only redirect this waste to be burnt instead, to feed the demand that the incinerator will be creating. The fact that the proposals are at such a huge scale means that waste will still have to come from afar, even if this has been moderated by negotiations as part of this planning process and therefore is contrary to the aims of Net Zero targets and a short-term measure. A measure which will feed demand to maintain the facilities operations and not reduce it. There is not a proven need for this facility.
3. The increase in harmful carcinogens from this additional daily traffic is of intense concern, as the air in the town, although not a city can be polluted by standing traffic and the local industrial area. An increase of population of 10000 is already planned by the councils without considering the extra numbers required for this heat and power project and Wisbech has limited access routes. It is a town of National notable historic and heritage merit having a significant number of listed buildings extant in the town and a Conservation area.
4. The out of scale and imposing nature of the proposed design of the waste facility will have a negatively dominating presence as the town is approached. This is very likely to deter investors as we have personal family experience of this where a prospective purchaser for our business from London, stated that he was put off by the scale of one of the factories recently built at that time.
5. This industrial waste facility is so overwhelming that it is inconceivable that it is appropriate to be here so close to a population of 30000 people and a nearby school just a few hundred meters away. In my experience factory towers may be built to carry steam away from the nearby vicinity to where it can dissipate, but as soon as roof vents or doors are opened

- pollution can be omitted without mitigation. This new plant will bring additional internal and external mechanical manufacturing and vehicle noise and other manufacturing pollution can only have a detrimental effect on the population too. Steam may sound harmless, but moisture holds in pollution at ground level, if there isn't any wind and there is low cloud cover. This will further add to the air quality challenges that parts of the town experiences.
6. The burning of gas to power the plant in such huge quantities will also further add to the pollution in the area on a gigantic scale so close to the town. This will further feed a demand for fossil fuels, going against the need for the country to eventually cease reliance.
 7. Is this Combined Heat and Power Facility planning to use the most up to date technology to mitigate pollution from its proposed facility and how safe and effective is it?
 8. The community will be reliant upon trusting that the operatives are combusting the waste at the correct temperature so that only energy and steam is produced. If there is a fault or if the temperature isn't correct what level of burnt plastic and other pollutants could enter the air unintentionally? In other countries I believe carcinogen levels have increased in surrounding areas around incinerators. Plastic and other pollutants are being found in greater quantities in the air, soil and water across the world. Plastic from tyres and other chemicals from vehicles are just some of these causes and there will be, as mentioned earlier, many lorries visiting and leaving this site. This is an agricultural region with A grade land that could become increasingly polluted along with the population.
 9. I wholly support Fenland District Council for denying access to their land as they are only following the will of the people.
 10. Other concerns by agencies are also fair and justified.
 11. I believe this land chosen for the site is on a flood plain. How is this justifiable? How may any future flooding event affect the site, and would it cause contaminate run-off into the water table and water drainage systems?
 12. How will this plant be decontaminated from the plastic, commercial and industrial waste when it comes to the end of its life in just a few decades?

In conclusion, I do not believe that there is a need for a waste facility in Wisbech of any size as there isn't the local demand. Being an agricultural area with food processing and food manufacturing plants the waste facility is not in keeping with the local demographic of businesses. The waste facility doesn't have any businesses signed up to receive its product. This site will be a blight on the beautiful, and wonderfully historic and unique town known as the 'The Capital of the Fens'. A complete impact assessment is unknown. It is too close to a large population and the site itself is insecure, located on a flood plain. The roads and infrastructure are ill equipped to cope with the massive increase in daily traffic. Wisbech is planning a railway connection to service a residential community who want to provide a better link with other towns for work and to attract tourism, and may also help to take traffic off the roads as part of a plan to decarbonise.

I hope my comments prove helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Jones