

Aberdeenshire Against Incineration

Planning recommend rejection of the proposed incinerator in Aberdeenshire

Please support your Planning Officers, they are the professionals who spent 18 months working on this application. You are being asked to decide on one single planning application on a specific site: you are not being asked to solve the nation's waste disposal issues.

The Planning Report you have been given states;-

“That no contracts regarding the supply or potential supply of municipal waste have been awarded to the applicants by either Aberdeenshire or Aberdeen City Council.”

This application does not comply with Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2006 as..”There are no facilities proposed on-site for the sorting of material to ensure that only residual waste is processed at the facility despite being repeatedly asked for this.

As a result, it may be the case in the absence of any sorting facilities on-site, or contracts, that the facility will be treating non residual wastes from the commercial and industrial waste stream which is contrary to the Thermal Treatment guidelines, the National Waste Strategy and Area Waste Plan which seeks to deliver sustainable waste management.

The North of Scotland Strategic Options Review (NOSSOR) Group looked at areas of search for waste management sites within the eastern and western parts of the area. Within the eastern area (Aberdeen City and Shire) the report outlined that having applied the principle of locating infrastructure close to the source of waste arising, the proximity principle eliminated the possibility of locations removed from Aberdeen City and it quoted Peterhead as an example of this remoteness.

In conclusion Planning state that it is not considered the facility at Peterhead has been fully justified in terms of the proximity to waste arising within the region.

SEPA/Health Protection Scotland Reports

SEPA have never carried out a single piece of research into whether or not incinerators are safe. The recently published Health Protection Agency (HPA) review 'The impact on Health of Emissions to Air from Municipal Waste Incinerators', states that 'While it is not possible to rule out adverse health effects from modern, well regulated municipal waste incinerators with complete certainty, any potential damage to the health of those living close-by is likely to be very small.'

SEPA/Health Protection Scotland Oct 09 report quotes this and offers no additional research as they consider HPA's report still relevant. HPA's report similarly paid deference (without its own research, since the evidence base had not changed significantly they stated since 2004 and it was considered to be an "inefficient use of resources to repeat the work undertaken by



report. "This work was undertaken by a group of consultants led by ENVIROS. This report is the most extensive available in the field and concludes that well managed, modern incinerators are likely to have only a very small effect on health."

Eastcroft Incinerator Nottingham is run by WRG (Waste Recycling Group) whose consultants were ENVIROS.

The following is a list of Incinerators all recently rejected by Councillors

2003 Aberdeen City Council Aberdeen City rejected comprehensively a proposed Incinerator in Aberdeen...Ken Walker, Technical Development Manager with Grampian Primary Care NHS Trust, advised the Committee that, as a member of the NHS Scotland Waste Management Steering Group, he was very much aware of the potential for health related issues to arise and environmental damage to occur as a result of waste incineration. He referred to research papers prepared for the Institute for Environment and Health which addressed the health effects of ten key pollutants released during waste incineration. His view was that the emissions from the proposed plant at Altens could affect around 350,000 people living and working in the North East of Scotland up to a 35 mile radius from the site. He indicated that the potential existed for pollutants to contaminate the food chain and to increase the incidence of cancers, respiratory problems and other illnesses in the affected population.

All the following were rejected by Councillors in 2009 Dunbar Invergordon Tockwith, North Yorkshire Derby Splott in Cardiff Rathcoole in west Dublin Oxfordshire X2 Sutton Courtenay and Ardley. Cornwall.

Waste destroyed in an incinerator will be replaced. That involves new raw materials, manufacture, transport, packaging etc etc. In contrast, reduction, reuse and recycling represent a win-win strategy. It has been shown in a number of different cities that high levels of diversion of waste (>60%) can be achieved relatively quickly. When that happens, there is not very much left to burn, but a number of the products left will be problematic, for example PVC. Incineration, an end of pipe approach, sends the message 'No problem, we have a solution for disposal of your product, carry on business as usual'. What should happen is a 'front end solution'. Society should be able to say 'Your product is unsustainable and a health hazard stop making it'.

Incineration destroys accountability and this encourages industries to go on making products that lead to problematic toxic wastes. Once the waste has been reduced to ash who can say who made what? The past 150 years has seen a progressive 'toxification' of the waste stream with heavy metals, radionuclides and synthetic halogenated organic molecules. It is time to start reversing that trend. We won't achieve that while we continue to incinerate waste.

Incinerators produce bottom and fly ash which amount to 30-50% by volume of the original waste (if compacted), and require transportation to landfill sites. Abatement equipment in modern incinerators merely transfers the toxic load, notably that of dioxins and heavy metals, from airborne emissions to the fly ash. This fly ash is light, readily windborne and mostly of low particle size. It represents a considerable and poorly understood health hazard.

Fine particulates formed in incinerators in the presence of toxic metals and organic toxins (including those known to be carcinogens), adsorb these pollutants and carry them into the blood stream and into the cells of the body.

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