Devonport Environmental Permit Application crib-sheet

Environmental Permit Number EPR/WP3833FT, Devonport Energy from Waste CHP

Comments re Draft permit

I object to an environmental permit being issued with respect to the above application until the Environment Agency can provide evidence to demonstrate that they have followed the precautionary principle in considering this permit with respect to the following points:

1. Why have the Protocols for Sampling and Testing of IBA not been finalised?
2. The proposed regularity of monthly testing of IBA is inadequate.
3. The proposed quarterly reporting of IBA is inadequate. Real-time on-line reporting is needed.
4. The proposed regularity of testing for "total soluble fractions" in IBA is inappropriate.
5. There is too much leeway for dropping tests deemed as unnecessary. All potential hazardous properties should be systematically tested for in IBA.
6. There is inadequate Intermediate term storage for potentially hazardous bottom ash that is required whilst awaiting testing results.
7. Extra testing should be required for the proper description of bottom ash as required under REACH regulations (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals).
8. A comprehensive and systematic mechanical and biological pre-sorting system is required pre-incineration in order to (amongst other things):
    a. Respect the waste hierarchy;
    b. Enable restrictions on quantities of wastes burned to be adhered to and monitored;
    c. Enable a more efficient burn and require fewer shutdowns;
    d. Enable a more homogeneous waste stream to be burned with fewer environmental; pollutants to be released into the atmosphere; and
    e. Enable a more homogenous and less toxic bottom ash residue.
9. Finally, the Environment Agency need to take into account MVV's environmental record in operating their plants in Germany where recent breaches of emissions limits have caused at least one local community to lose confidence in the company and the regulatory authorities.

I believe these points bring into question issues as detailed in your circular, *Public Comments Fact Sheet.*

- "environmental regulatory requirements and technical standards"
- "Comments on whether the right process is being used for the activity"
- "Take account of information which implies factual errors have been occurred"
- "Take account of new information not presented before such as a new conservation matter or potential environmental impact"

I note the Environment Agency's position that:

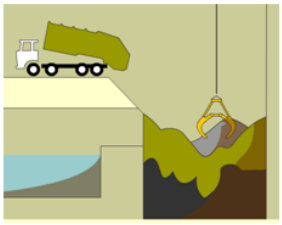
"We will only issue a permit if we believe the facility will be designed, constructed and operated in a manner that will not cause significant pollution of the environment or harm to human health. We must be satisfied that:

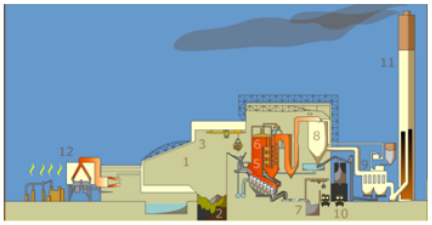
- The standards proposed for the design, construction and operation of the facility meet or exceed our guidance, national legislation and relevant directives;
- The comments received from the public and other organisations have been taken into account;
- As far as practicable, any energy efficiency requirements have been taken into account;
- The residues or wastes from the activity will be minimised in their amount and harmfulness and recycled where appropriate;
- Proposed measurement techniques for emissions are in line with those specified in national legislation and relevant directives"

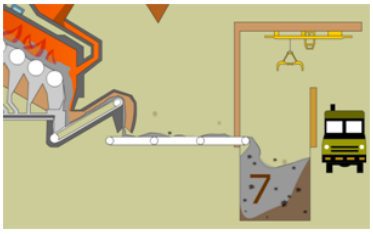
I believe all the points raised above question these outcomes. The Environment Agency should be able to publicly demonstrate evidence that supports them in the process of awarding a permit for this site, and justify how the precautionary principle is being applied. If they cannot do this, then I object to the permit being issued as it will be unlawful.

(1) EfW Permitting Process with respect to IBA

Proposed 'expedient' approach – lacking in precaution







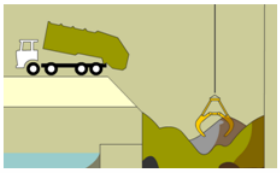
Source: Greenpeace

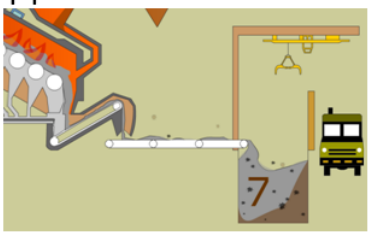
•Unsorted kerbside waste trucked to site.
•No geographic restriction on imported waste.
•Spurious assumptions about recycling are made with respect to the nature of the waste.
•Only a grab crane to sort before incineration.
•Large quantities of potentially recyclable material are burned.
•More fuel accelerant required to maintain temperature of burn.
•Higher CO2 emissions.
•Totally unnecessary quantities of pollutants are irreversibly released into the environment.

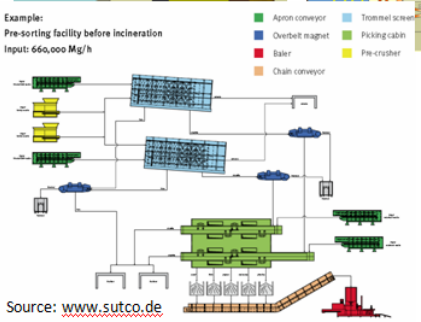
•IBA is collected from quench bath and swiftly moved offsite to processing plant.
•Testing carried out monthly
•Reporting carried out quarterly.
•Quality and comprehensiveness of testing highly questionable with pressure from industry/operator to lower standards.
•Multiple test fails required before hazardous.
•Political and commercial pressure to ensure that ALL residue is put to reuse.
•Presumption of suitability for reprocessing.
•Processing plant is considered 'low risk' by operator and EA despite evidence to the contrary.
•Processing involves weathering and grading.
•Quality of processed aggregate is of no concern to Environment Agency.

(2) EfW Permitting Process with respect to IBA

The correct **precautionary** approach







Source: www.sutco.de

•Unsorted kerbside waste trucked to site, and subjected to rigorous and systematic mechanical, biological sorting and treatment and recovery for further recycling off site.
•Waste restricted to locality. No importation.
•A well-specified Refuse Derived Fuel is created, giving cleaner, more consistent residues, releasing less pollutants and toxins.

•IBA is collected from quench bath and moved to intermediate storage area on site permitted to store hazardous waste.
•Testing is carried out systematically to the highest possible standard, testing for all appropriate hazard properties as detailed in WM2 (including H14 and H15).
•Reporting is real-time and on-line with detailed clarity for public information.
•Single failures mean waste is hazardous until subsequent testing proves otherwise, leading to hazardous landfill.
•Operator fined for failing tests.
•Processing sites regarded as potential threats to health and environment, maintained in existing industrial areas away from housing and protected sites.
•State of the art processing undertaken.
•No outlet to watercourse.
•Substances registered with REACH if to be reused.