

Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre (CERC)

News Update from the Site Liaison Group

November 2007

Introduction

SITA is proposing to submit a planning application to develop an energy recovery centre near St Dennis. The Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre (CERC) will manage residual waste, which is waste that cannot be reused, recycled or composted. The centre will burn residual waste in a clean and efficient way, generating electricity and heat. Electricity will be exported to the National Grid and the heat generated will be used by local industry.

Why was the Site Liaison Group (SLG) formed?

The group has been formed so that local residents can find out more about the planning application and also about energy from waste technology. It is also a way for residents to feed their views and concerns back to SITA. The group is made up of local residents and representatives from local organisations and an independent chairperson, Rae Wallin, has been appointed to the Group.

A different topic, chosen in advance by the group, will be covered in detail at each monthly meeting, with occasional visiting speakers.

Members of the liaison group have agreed to feed back information to other members of the community and this newsletter, which will be sent out on an occasional basis and available to all, will provide a summary of the main points.

How was membership of the SLG decided?

To ensure that as many people as possible had the opportunity to take part, news releases, posters and invitations were sent out inviting individuals to join. A number of key organisations were also approached directly; these included the three parish councils, schools, GP surgeries, the WI and the football club. It is important that the group includes a diverse range of people representing a wide variety of groups and interests.

How will the SLG be run?

At the first meeting, held 30 July 2007, it was agreed by the group members themselves how the group would function, how often it would meet, and what members wanted from future meetings.

The terms of reference for the SLG are as follows:

1. SITA is not in control of the group. It is for the group to decide upon topics for discussion.
2. Factual information needs to be provided, which can be fed back into the local communities.
3. The group is owned by its members.
4. Individual members can come and go but the group will go on for as long as there is interest.
5. The SLG is not formed only for the planning application process, SITA hopes that the meetings continue beyond the planning stage.
6. The structure of the group will be reviewed every six months.
7. Members of the group are welcome to bring along their own research and questions to the meeting for responses and answers.

The group needs to be a liaison group, not a public group, to be at its most productive.

It is important to be able to feel that members of the group can ask simple questions and a smaller group would make this easier.

Members of the public can come along to the meeting on the conditions that they only observe and do not take part. Members of the public will need to contact the group ahead of a meeting to arrange to attend.

What is the timetable for the CERC?

In order to be allowed to build and operate the CERC, SITA has to obtain both planning permission from Cornwall County Council and a licence from the Environment Agency.

- SITA must receive a Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) permit from the Environment Agency to allow it to operate the plant. It can take up to six months to get the permit. The PPC permit application is likely to be submitted in November 2007, at the same time as the planning application. If a permit is awarded, it will set out details of the operating conditions SITA must comply with, such as hours of working and emissions limits to be met (the EA can set stricter limits than are in the EU Waste Incineration Directive if it believes it necessary)
 - The planning application is likely to be submitted in December 2007. The planning authority – Cornwall County Council – is given a statutory period of 16 weeks to scrutinise the planning application, but might extend that period given the complexity of the application. The application documents will include a large number of background reports, surveys and results of monitoring, as well as details of the proposal. If members of the planning committee award planning permission, there is a 12 week period when objections can be raised. If they refuse permission, SITA could appeal.
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Assuming both permissions are given, construction would start soon afterwards. The construction period will be around 33 months.

I'm not a member of the SLG – how can I find out more about the application?

Before the planning application is submitted SITA will organise public exhibitions to allow members of the public to find out more about the application and to provide the opportunity for discussions with relevant experts. The exhibition will include a 3D architectural model of the proposed plant, plus computer-generated views showing how the facility will look from areas such as St Dennis.

Exhibitions will be held in St Dennis and St Stephen, and a bus will bring people from St Enoder. The public exhibition will be advertised widely and held in the evenings and week-end so that people who are working during the day can come along.

The SLG has asked for the public exhibition to include visual plans, transportation routes, details on the chimney and screening, and information about noise and lighting.

People visiting the exhibition will be encouraged to complete feedback forms and they can also ask for written replies to questions, if they would prefer to receive information in this way.

Members of the SLG have agreed to promote the exhibitions to their local communities and the groups they represent.

MEETING DISCUSSION TOPIC: Health Impact Assessment

A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is being carried out and this was raised at a meeting. This is different from the Health Risk Assessment that is carried out for the PPC permit application. SITA appointed independent consultants to conduct the HIA. A representative of the consultants attended the SLG to explain their work. He informed the group that the HIA is defined as *“a combination of procedures, methods and tools that systematically judges the potential, and sometimes unintended, effects of a policy, programme or project on both the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA identifies appropriate actions to manage those effects.”*

He explained that consultation is an important part of HIA. The consultant engaged with local residents from different parts of the community, and in particular with those residents who might experience and/or have knowledge of health inequalities in the locality. The aim was to obtain opinions from members of the community regarding the prospective health and wellbeing impacts of the development.

The HIA findings and suggestions will be reported as part of the planning application.

MEETING DISCUSSION TOPIC: Transport

Transport was one of the first issues to be covered in detail at a SLG meeting, following a request by its members.

An independent transport consultant has been appointed to look at likely transport impacts for the construction and operational phases of the CERC, and the findings were presented to the group. Among other things, the consultant has investigated how many vehicles will travel to the CERC each day and what impact they will have.

Traffic movements to and from the CERC

Vehicle movements to existing landfill sites were analysed to establish the likely daily arrivals of waste trucks to the CERC between 7am – 6pm during weekdays and 7 am to 1 pm Saturdays.

The peak hours would be between 1pm – 2pm.

The daily traffic movements are expected to be as follows:

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|-------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| • Waste truck movements | Arrivals: 52 | Departures: 52 |
| • Staff movements | Arrivals: 61 | Departures: 61 |

Haul Road

The impact of traffic travelling to and from the CERC will be reduced significantly because SITA is proposing to use a dedicated private road, which will provide a good route, away from villages, to key road networks such as the A30.

The private road is currently a haul road owned and used by Imerys. It is nearly two km long and will divert traffic from main roads and away from the centre of St. Dennis.

It will be accessed from via a junction on Stamps Hill, approximately 1.8km from the Highgate Hill interchange (A30). Vehicles will travel from the Highgate Hill interchange to the haul road via the Gaverigan roundabout.

Traffic will get to the CERC, from the haul road, via a new access road. This will be via a new junction at La Mount corner to the north of Treviscoe and will run east for approximately 800m, and then drop down into the site.

Employees of the CERC will use normal highways to commute. The haul route is purely for heavy lorries.

Southern Routes

A small number of operational service deliveries may get to the CERC via the A3058 and B3279 via Treviscoe. However waste deliveries will access the site via the A30 and the Highgate Hill interchange.

The only waste deliveries to the CERC that will use the A3058 are the bulked loads that are transferred from the Tregoneeves transfer station, around five or six loads each day.

Issues raised by the SLG include:

- Members of the group raised concerns about vehicles travelling through St. Stephen as there are bottlenecks, issues with school crossings and coaches travelling through the villages and existing traffic problems. This point was noted for further investigation.
 - Members of the group also asked whether clay vehicles currently going to Parkandillick could use the haul road as well, as they make journeys late in the night. This point was also noted for further investigation.
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Summary

The transport consultant's conclusion is that the Rostowrack Farm site provides a central location for the CERC facility, which has good connections to existing A roads. The transport assessment has demonstrated that there are no significant highway issues associated with the proposals.

Visit to an energy from waste facility

To help with their research, members of the SLG are likely to visit an energy-from-waste facility in the near future. The group felt that seeing a facility at first-hand would be extremely useful.

We will keep you updated with news from the community liaison group. If you would like future copies of this newsletter to be delivered to your household or via email, please call Rachael Clayton on (01579) 370991.
