



05 FEBRUARY 2009 – *Due to the high costs of printing and difficulties in posting, please pass this Newsletter on to your friends, neighbours and relatives or to anyone who does not have Internet Access. Thank you.*

#### **CONTACT HAGATI**

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Last November, INEOS invited HAGATI representatives to a meeting to 'improve their communications with residents'. They explained that they wanted HAGATI to become a member of a Local Liaison Forum looking only at aspects concerning the proposed incinerator. This invitation was accepted by HAGATI and it was hoped that HAGATI could become a valued and respected part of that group.

At the same meeting, INEOS disclosed that they intended to employ RPS (the consultants used to prepare the Human Health Impact Report (HHIR) in their original Application), in order to write the 'Full and Independent Human Health Impact Report' as promised in their Application. HAGATI representatives were extremely concerned at this and pointed out that, due to their predetermined position as the original consultants, the use of RPS would seriously damage the credibility of the Report and suggested that a University would be more appropriate in producing a truly Independent Report. HAGATI representatives felt the use of RPS was unacceptable as they would be using their own data to produce the Report, (their data already being proved to be questionable), and therefore could most definitely NOT be used in a valid assessment of the impact that this Incinerator would have on human health.

INEOS have just announced the membership of the Local Liaison Forum. The HAGATI committee is very disappointed and confused that it does NOT contain any representative. Instead, INEOS have ignored the value of HAGATI'S acceptance of their invitation and have chosen to invite a member of the INEOS Site Community Forum, a group who deal with general concerns regarding the activities of INEOS, onto this Forum. HAGATI is unaware of any concern or criticism of the INEOS Proposal, any depth of knowledge or experience of incineration that any spokesperson from this group has shown, either at HAGATI public meetings or their own public meeting held at Churchill Hall, since the INEOS Application was put forward, and does not feel confident that any of its members could positively represent residents of the local community. The HAGATI committee, on the other hand, has devoted a great amount of time and effort in gaining considerable in-depth knowledge of incineration and are genuinely committed to ensuring the health and well being of the local community.

There is one good thing coming out of this decision by INEOS to exclude HAGATI from the forum however, and that is that the situation does at least allow us to be critical of RPS themselves, without the constraint of being a part of the Forum – a situation where we are not alone. In Nottinghamshire, RPS has acted as a consultant for another incinerator proposal and this following statement is self-explanatory.

*In Nottinghamshire, expert analysis of RPS's original data revealed serious errors. The Planning Authority forced RPS to supply revised and corrected figures. These too were found to be in error! Expert analysis of RPS' revised and corrected version of their Carbon Analysis resulted in the following conclusions:*

*RPS has now corrected the basic errors in their original 'climate change assessment report'. It is alarming that such fundamental mistakes should have been allowed into the public consultation documents for this project and such blunders severely damages the credibility of the applicant and their consultants. In these circumstances it is hardly surprising that the public have little confidence in the competence of RPS to objectively and accurately project the impacts of the application.*

To that statement we can add our local experience of the incompetence of RPS some of which is shown below. RPS, in the original INEOS Application stated:-

*"There is no Japanese Knotweed on the site".* - not only was this visible from the road, but the delay in admitting it resulted in a setback in treating the problem and now it is present in several adjoining areas.

*"There are no ponds on the site".* - there were in fact two ponds installed by ICI in consultation with English Nature, specifically to make them 'amphibian friendly'.

*"There are no newts on the site".* - the fact that RPS could not find any newts is hardly surprising as they conducted their survey in November during the hibernation phase of the newt's year. A proper survey carried out at the correct time found newts, including the highly protected Great Crested newt.

*"There are no residential properties close to the railway line".* - one might excuse that it could be easy to miss a tiny creature such as a newt which had deliberately made itself inconspicuous to hibernate in peace, but what excuse can be offered for not seeing the terraced houses in Percival Lane that back directly on to the line, or the houses in Picow Farm Road and all the new houses and flats that are being constructed in Percival Lane?

It may just be coincidence that all the things missed by RPS would have had a negative impact on the Application, but it beggars belief that a Company responsible for so many errors can be judged by INEOS, as being suitable to prepare a Report on what impact their incinerator will have on the health of local residents.

The only good thing to come from this debacle is that, a lack of confidence in the Human Health Impact Report is a valid reason to object to the Application for an Environmental Permit, which INEOS will need, in order to operate the Incinerator. Consultations with the Environment Agency have confirmed that, when INEOS make their Application, the public will be informed, and there will be a twenty-eight day period in which residents can object. We will try and give advanced notice of this so look out for this in the local press and our Website.

INEOS may have won the battle, but they haven't yet, by any means, won the War! INEOS may be able to build the Incinerator, but will they be able to run it? HAGATI is still very much up and running to ensure that residents' views and objections are discussed and debated. The decision of the Secretary of State to allow INEOS their Planning Application and the decision of Halton Borough Council NOT to request a Public Inquiry so that local residents concerns could be discussed in an open forum and our health issues could be addressed, was just considered only a set-back. Thank you for your continued support.