



The Current Situation

The Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DBERR) is still considering its decision on the Ineos-Chlor application to build a giant waste incinerator in Halton.

HAGATI, Ward Councillors and residents, strongly objecting to the application, have sent the DBERR many letters and documents. However as it is a planning application, health and environmental issues may not be considered and the decision, if granted, would only be subject to Environmental Agency regulation.

This is a dangerous situation because Ineos would not submit a planning application that states it would contravene health and environment legislation, so this is a very low hurdle for Ineos to jump. However if the incinerator is built and it is then found that it cannot run within those conditions the pressure to let it continue, as it would be the only incinerator burning all the northwest's waste, would be irresistible and we would have to suffer the consequences for the next twenty-five years.

It is imperative therefore that Halton residents persist in calling for a Public Inquiry so that health and environmental concerns are considered in the upcoming decision, especially as the incinerator is in a unique location - close to homes and schools, at the bottom of a hill and in a borough with the worst health record in the UK.

It is not too late to object. You need to put pressure on DBERR, on local ward councillors and on the MP (Derek Twigg) to ensure they know that Halton residents are truly scared of the health implications of this huge incinerator belching out toxic pollutants every day, every night for the next 25 years.

This is your last chance to object to a decision that will affect you and your family's life for generations in Halton. Don't be left with any future regrets. Write and object and call for a Public Inquiry to the people who are supposed to be looking after your health and welfare. The question you must ask yourself is - "What right has Ineos-Chlor to gamble with the future health of my family?"

Over the last 12 months HAGATI have worked hard to keep the issues in the public eye and to take every opportunity to object to the building of the incinerator.

We have done our bit, now it is up to you

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

- Since the Council decided not to call for a public inquiry on 31st July 2007, there has been a great deal of activity by HAGATI regarding this decision. The work involved with challenging HBC and involved with objections to the incinerator proposal has meant a delay in the issuing of the Newsletter, sorry for this, but chronologically, this is what has been happening.
- Following the HBC decision and a HAGATI 'Statement of Concerns' document being sent to the Secretary of State, a reply was sent to us by Robert Pridham of DBERR on 18th September stating that *"As the Council did not object to the proposal, therefore the Secretary of State is not obliged to call for a mandatory Public Inquiry"*
- **This response clearly shows that if HBC had objected, a Public Inquiry would have been granted.**
- In October 2007, there were still many unanswered questions and HAGTI sent a further document to the DBERR. The document was also sent to every HBC Councillor and it included questions such as:- Why was the proposed incinerator being built in an area which UNIQUELY combines all the features which have caused major concern elsewhere eg:- proximity to a densely populated area, pollution subject to dispersal over populated areas by prevailing winds, located below Runcorn Hill, and sited in a Borough that has the worst health record in the UK.
- The document also drew attention to the incompatibility with HBC's Unitary Development Plan, where 5 of the 10 criteria requiring compliance for obtaining planning permission for incinerators were not met.
- Other concerns were raised like the "non green" credentials of the incinerator - that every ton of waste burned releases a ton of CO2 and every 3 tons of waste produces a ton of ash. The use of RDF as fuel also means that the incinerator produces six times more CO2 than the existing gas fired plant for the same amount of electricity and the fact that 400 lorry journeys per day are required to transport fuel and waste to run the plant also added to the carbon footprint.
- Towards the end of 2007 a series of errors and omissions in the Environmental Impact assessment came to light relating to the Ineos claim that there were no newts or suitable habitat and no Japanese knotweed. Two surveys confirmed the presence of a 'small breeding colony' of Great Crested newts - a protected species and Japanese knotweed.
- In January 2008, DBERR replied to HBC's comments and representations that contained 52 conditions. In their reply, DBERR listed **ONLY 42** draft conditions to be met prior to consideration for approval of the incinerator. HBC have NOT responded to the DBERR in accordance with the assurance given in July 07, namely 'That unless all these matters are satisfactorily addressed by the Secretary of State, the Council would wish to object to the granting of permission'
- The Ince Incinerator proposal will be considered at a Public Inquiry starting 26th March (**Why not the Runcorn proposal ?**)
- A recent article in the Widnes Weekly News (27/12/07) has highlighted the dual standards that are being pursued by HBC, which relates to the proposed siting of a waste treatment and incineration plant at Ditton. The article '**Chiefs Aim to Block Waste Bid**' goes on to state :-
*'Any attempt to build a massive waste treatment plant in Ditton will be opposed, say Council chiefs
Halton Council says it has informed the MWDA of its objections to the Ditton site being chosen. Cllr Phil Harris said:
"Halton Borough Council has already made it clear that it does not support the construction of an incinerator or a waste treatment plant on land at Ditton sidings.'*

**This begs the question:- if it is not acceptable in Widnes
why should it be acceptable in Runcorn ?**

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

WRITE YOUR LETTERS NOW TO:-

The Secretary of State,
C/O The Dept of Business Enterprise, and Regulatory
Reform,
Bay 2121,
1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET.

Derek Twigg MP,
F2 Moorlane Business Centre, Moorlane, Widnes, Cheshire.

Mike Hall MP,
Weaver Vale, Office 4, Castle Park, Frodsham, WA6 6SB.

ALSO WRITE TO:-

Your Councillors AND The Press!

Committee Contacts

Jeff Meehan	01928 581171
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Alan Gorry	01928 572298
Mike Stackpool	01928 580697