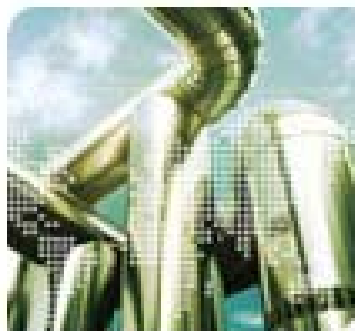


Transcript Report



www.veolia.co.uk/

Energy Recovery Community Liaison Group

Meeting 3
held on 12 February 2007 at
Rainworth Village Hall

27 February 2007

Document Details

Note:

This report is a transcript of the live flipchart recording undertaken during the meeting in full view of all participants, by the independent facilitators 3KQ. Whilst during the transcription of the flipcharts we have added occasional words to make it more readable and accessible, we have not changed the meaning of any of the comments. It is meant as an aide-memoir for participants rather than a definitive record of every detail.

We have added explanatory notes in boxed italics like this to describe what was happening during the meeting, so that the report make more sense to readers who were not present.

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1 - Purpose, Agenda, Facilitators and Ground Rules

The **purpose** of this meeting was to:

- To hear and comment on the architect's proposals for the ERF

The **agenda** was:

- Welcome and introductions
- Brief review of last meeting and feedback from visit to Sheffield Plant
- Presentation by Architect
- Next Steps

Ground Rules: reminders of ways to help the meeting run smoothly:

- Mobiles off please!
- One person speaks at a time
- Watch the wall record, as it becomes the report of today's meeting
- Treat others with respect
- Ask if speakers use jargon that you don't understand – we will add it to our list!

2 - Updates since Meeting 2 (4 January 2007)

Written Answers to Questions

- Thank you to Veolia for the written answers to the questions, they were much appreciated.

Sheffield ERF Site Visit

- On the way in to this meeting, one member of the group was told by the protesters outside, that the Sheffield site had gone over the acceptable emissions level 40 times in the last 12 months. Is this true?
- Those that went to Sheffield were told that the acceptable emissions level had been breached much much fewer times (memory of those that visited Sheffield ranged from 0 to 5 times). Anyone can look on the website to access the levels.
- Those that attended found the visit very useful and it answered lots of people's questions.
- The Environment Agency (who regulate emissions) will be at the next meeting.
- It will be possible to explore emissions out of the chimney and at ground level at the next meeting.

Update

After the meeting Veolia checked the exact figures with the Sheffield site for clarification:

There were 5 breaches of the half-hourly limits in 2006 at the Sheffield site, resulting from 4 events. These are shown on the Environment Agency's public register. The plant's emissions performance is on their website, as required by their Permit. (www.veoliaenvironmentalservices.co.uk/sheffield/pages/emissions.asp)

3 – Presentation by Architect

Jean Robert Mazaud of S'pace, the architect for the plant, was asked to give a brief presentation on the philosophy and the current design for the plant. The remainder of the meeting was used for,

- the presentation,*
- questions and discussion on this*
- providing feedback for the architect to incorporate in his finalisation of the design.*

The key points from the presentation and the discussion are recorded below by the facilitator. The slides from the presentation are attached at the end as Appendix 2.

Introduction

- The architect sees this project as an opportunity to start to add value back to the colliery site. He first visited the site 9 months ago to begin to understand the site and its whole context.
- The plant will be the first project on the whole colliery site so there is a responsibility to provide the site with a new vision.
- The architect has to think about the relationship that people want to develop between the village and the plant/ colliery redevelopment. The architect needs the help of local people to develop a good design.
- He sees this as a fantastic opportunity to solve the waste issues in a sustainable manner.
- The ideas for the design were gradually developed as the architect considered each of the elements from the surrounding context/ needs.

Qu What makes the architect decide a design is good? (How it looks, sound etc?)

Ans The architect considers the surroundings for the plant and the space available. The architect uses the crane and its movement as part of the design as this is usually a limiting factor to the design. The architect wants the plant to be acceptable to both the people who work inside it and those who live near by. He works with the engineers to make sure that it will fulfil its function.

Qu What does the black circle on the slide showing an aerial view of the site mark out?

Ans The context for the plant but he is aware that the whole ex-colliery site is much larger.

Qu Is the architect responsible for the technical aspects and emissions?

An No

Qu Is the architect limited by budget?

Ans Yes. The architect provides a service to develop a good design which is then competed through tender. The design must be able to be adapted by each of the companies tendering. The architect has been working with the competitors for the past 9 months. The end contractor will build the architects design as a shell. How they fit the plant inside the building and meet all of the Environment Agency's emission requirements is part of their bid. The final step, which is now

being entered, is for the architect and the chosen contractor to finalise the design.

Qu What will the dimensions be?

Ans Approximately 150meters long, 70 to 80 meters wide.

Site Design

- The site is a barren wasteland at the moment. The architect hopes to be able to introduce water and trees that can flourish (some trees have survived and he wants to keep them)
- The architect wants to include a visitors element and doesn't want the plant to take up all of the site but to allow green areas.
- The architect doesn't want to add grey to the already grey area/ roads.

The Roof

- The architect has introduced a curved roof as this is regarded as more 'friendly', less aggressive and more pleasing to the eye.
- In the design the architect has placed the two cranes one above another to reduce the surface area required for the plant.
- The purpose of the roof, to the architect, is to give the right scale to the plant. It is the reference height. N.B. The site currently has no comparison points because there are no other buildings.

Qu To what degree will the roof impact on light pollution etc?

Ans The architect wants night light to be low but some light is required so the roof will need to absorb the maximum amount of light and of traffic noise (the process noise is already controlled). Traffic entrance to the plant etc. will be below the roof. The road between the plant and the village will be more noisy than the plant.

Height

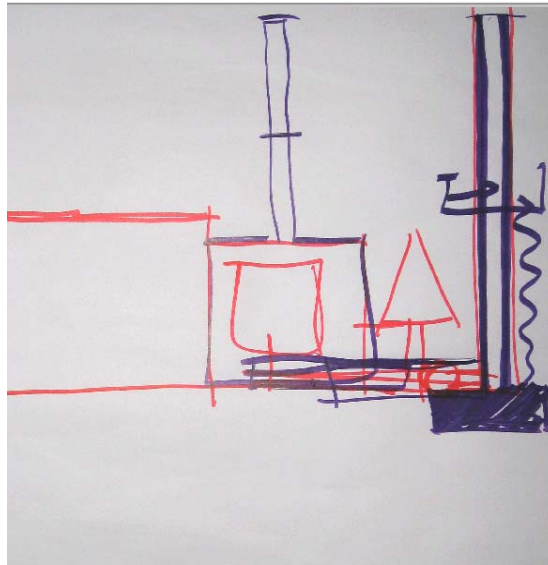
- The architect stated that the plant will be visible as it will have height. (NB it will be lower than the buildings that used to be there). The architect then asked the group whether they think this is acceptable.
- **Comment from the group** At least 2/3rds of the village won't be able to see the plant or may just be able to see the top of the chimney.
- The architect said that sometimes he considers partially burying a plant but then the displaced earth would have to be put somewhere and in this case he couldn't make the plant completely disappear so the architect doesn't think it is a good option for here.
- **Comment from the group** Would like plant to be kept as low as possible.
- The architect explained that height is related to light and the scale of the rest of the building. All of these factors result in different perceptions of height.
- It was pointed out that height perception can be different from different distances.

- **Comment from the group** The observation was made by the group that they don't think height will be an issue because most people will be looking at the plant from a higher point than the base of the plant.

The Chimney

Qu How high will the chimney be?

Ans The height of the chimney can be reduced by changing its location within the plant so that other buildings support it (this also saves money)



The architect's picture of a typical plant structure and how the chimney can be moved to inside the plant buildings.

The chimney should be neutral – simple steel so it doesn't attract attention. The architect suggests minimum thickness and brightness for the chimney and to place it within the building so give a perception that it isn't as high.

- The final height of the chimney is out of the architect's decision-making power. The Environment Agency uses calculations to dictate the height required according to emission regulations. This calculation has not been updated to match reduced emissions levels.
- The main concern is how low the emissions can be. Contractors and companies have been forced to reduce emissions. The architect believes that the guidelines for the height of chimneys should be similarly updated.
- The architect's office is 70 meters from the biggest ERF plant in France, he experiences no problems.
- The function of the chimney is the same as a chimney in a house. To improve the chimney's functioning it needs better convection. Dispersion factors also have to be considered.

Visibility

- **Comment from the group** Previously wanted it to be as 'invisible' as possible but, after visiting Sheffield and the presentation today, some participants want the ERF to be a talking point.
- **Comment from the group** Others still want it to blend in to the surroundings.
- **Comment from the group** If green and brown materials are used the building will be less visible.

- The architect feels that the plant design should be self-sufficient, i.e. an attraction on its own and then, once there is other development around it, it needs to blend in with those buildings.
- The architect said that there is a possibility to create a forest with buildings within it rather than place trees around buildings. He has done this elsewhere.

Water

Qu How will contaminated water be dealt with?

Ans Any industrial project has to take water into consideration. If water is used for fire fighting it has to be treated, rainwater on roads etc. has to be treated so, therefore, the architect has to be careful to integrate the drainage system into the design. The Environment Agency has guidelines for storage capacity for storm rainwater that also have to be considered. These take into account global warming impacts on storm likelihood and size.

There are 2 different sorts of water to be dealt with on site:

- Rainwater that has fallen on an area that can't be contaminated, e.g. the roof, goes to a storage area for controlled release at a slow rate (so as to not flood rivers).
- Possibly contaminated water is stored and usually reused in the process. If the capacity for storage of this water is reached then excess is removed by tanker or through sewage pipes for treatment.

Sustainability

Qu If you are considering the sustainability of the project what do you consider? Materials?

Ans The architect wants the plant to be made mainly from steel as this will contribute to the spirit of the design. Steel can be recycled so a proportion of the steel will be recycled. Aluminium is very energy intensive to produce so the architect wants to avoid its use. The architect expects wood to be one of the materials used in the visitors centre.

A decision has to be made as to whether you want to

- recycle?
- spend money?
- develop a sustainable project?

- The architect's impression is that VES are a company that holds sustainable development as important.
- The whole waste industry is under high scrutiny which leads to high standards.

Development of the whole site

Qu We are talking about future development on the colliery site, is this going to happen?

Ans The site will be restored at some time but there is no detail as to how at this stage.

Qu Concern was expressed as to what might be built in the future. This plant may be insignificant in a few years as it won't be on its own on the site.

Ans The architect explained that when he started to build the plant in the Champagne area in France (see presentation slide 3) local residents were concerned that this would cause more building in the area. Actually, they found it set a high standard and people wanted to go there to see it.

Qu Would like to know what is being done to ensure that the development of the whole area is done to the same high quality (This is only 10 acres of around 700 acres).

Ans UK Coal (the owners of the site) see this as an opportunity to look at the development policy for the whole area. They have instructed a consultant to look at the opportunities. UK Coal wouldn't have agreed to the scheme if they had any concerns about quality.

- **Comment from the group** The project could be a flagship/ benchmark for the area.
- **Comment from the group** Not one job has been created in Rainworth since 1993 so see this as an opportunity.

4 – Next Steps

Next steps

- The architect is working with the contractor to finalise the next step of the design. The architect will take into account comments from today, especially about height perspectives and will investigate historical heights on the site.
- The architect is very encouraged to hear that the whole site is being looked at in a global way.
- The architect will probably return to the April meeting to show the group the latest designs.

Process Discussion

- Please publicise any plans for communicating wider.
- The leaflet drops have not reached all streets.
- VES have plans for leaflets on
 - Environment and health issues
 - Transport issues
 - Economic possibilities
 - Possible effects on housing prices
- The plans will be displayed in public exhibitions.
- BBC Nottingham (radio) might look at this issue via a meeting.
- Wind turbines had an exhibition at the miners Welfare for a few days and this was very popular.
- Need to utilise opportunities to talk to protesters and others.
- Suggestion that a representative of PAIN is formally invited to present to this group and then stay to listen to responses/ proceedings.
- FoE and PAIN have agreed to attend an N&S District Council forum as part of the consultation process. VES will present, FoE/PAIN will present and an independent professor from Sheffield University will be overseeing. There is no date for the forum yet. Members of the public will be able to observe.

Forward Programme

- **22nd March – there will be an extra meeting**
- There was a request that the group receive a presentation from the technical contractor at some point in the future.
- ERM, an independent environmental consultancy will be asked to make a presentation at the March meeting.

Actions

ACTION	WHO
Circulate questions from Les and answers to whole group	Kevin Parker
Check number of times levels at Sheffield have exceeded the allowed level	Edward Thomas
Ask the EA to explain the limitations on chimney height at the next meeting	Rowena Harris
Let Kevin know of any roads which haven't received leaflets	All
Share the communication plans at the March meeting	VES

5 – Work Programme

Mtg No.	Date	Main Topic	Questions raised at meeting 1 which will be addressed
4	March 22	Health and environmental impacts	What health and safety risk does it pose? What emissions are released? How are these monitored? What impacts will it have? Pollution, noise, heat? Leaching to surface/ground water? What is the track record of plants?
5	April 11th	The 'bigger picture', landscape and boundaries Return visit of architect	Why was Rufford chosen? Plan B? Will houses depreciate? How will public access be managed? How much of the site will be used? Distance from houses? Any ancillary development?
6	21 May	Transport & access issues	Who will take waste to the ERF? What is the access route? What volume of traffic will there be? What emissions will traffic cause? As above, continue from meeting 4
7	2 July	To be confirmed	<i>We expect that the group may have further questions so it is best to keep the content of the meetings flexible</i>
8	4 September	To be confirmed	What will the costs be? <i>This question may be answered before this but didn't fit into the above categories:</i>
9	4 October	Draft planning documents – opportunity for the group to review them	
10(?)	1 Nov (?)	To be confirmed	

6 - Jargon Glossary

This glossary is a cumulative list of acronyms used in the Liaison Group meetings:

VES	Veolia Environmental Services Ltd (often known just as Veolia)
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
ERF	Energy Recovery Facility
PPC	Pollution Prevention and Control
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement
EA	Environment Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
NCC	Nottinghamshire County Council
NSDC	Newark & Sherwood District Council
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement
AD	Anaerobic Digestion
MBT	Mechanical and Biological Treatment
ERM	Environmental Resources Management

Appendix 1 - Attendees at 12 Feb 2007 mtg, Rainworth Village Hall

Name	Surname	Organisation
Mick	Allen	Nottinghamshire County Council
Nora	Armstrong	Newark & Sherwood District Council (Councillor)
Rob	Burns	Python Hill Primary School
Janet	Collins	Local Resident
David	Holland	Local Resident
Lynn	Holland	Local Resident
Michael John	Jeffries	Rainworth District Councillor
Leslie	Lee	Local Resident
Samuel	Olubodun	St. Simon & St. Judes Church
Gordon	Parker	Local Resident
Edward	Peat	Harworth Estates Ltd
Keith	Sercombe	Rainworth Miners Welfare Institute
Robin	Smith	Local Resident
Andy	Statham	Newark & Sherwood District Council (Officer)
Jonathan	Standen	RPS Group plc
Edward	Thomas	Veolia ES Nottinghamshire Ltd
Kevin	Parker	Veolia ES Nottinghamshire Ltd
Helen	Ashley	3KQ, Facilitator
Rowena	Harris	3KQ, Facilitator

On mailing list but did not attend

Janice	Bradley	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Alan	Brown	Rainworth Parish Council
William	Carr	Local Resident
David	Chalmers	Forestry Commission
Lucy	Dickie	Local Resident
Diane	Dolman	Churchfield Care Centre
BRJ	Fairhurst	Local Resident
Richard	Goodhand	St. Simon & St. Judes Church
David	Kent	East Midlands Business & Environment Club
Paul	Maloney	Local Resident
Tanya	Montgomery	Environment Agency
Nick	Tribe	Natural England
Malvin	Trigg	Nottinghamshire County Council
F.D.	Warrener	Local Resident
Yvonne	Woodhead	County Councillor

Appendix 2 – Emission Levels Guidance

At the Energy Recovery Liaison Group meeting held on 12/2/07, a question was asked (outside the main discussion) about the emission values from the ERF and there was some misunderstanding about the difference between the limits set at the chimney and the targets for ground level concentrations known as Air Quality Objectives.

The limits at the chimney will be set out in the Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) permit issued by the Environment Agency. These will generally be at least as stringent as the EU Waste Incineration Directive. These are known as the Emission Limit Values (ELVs).

The guidance on how these limits are set is given in the Environment Agency's guidance document S5.01, which was last updated in 2003. See: http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/incineration_530873.pdf

In this, the Emission Limit Value benchmarks are set out in table 3.1 (pages 125-126)

The ELVs are related only to the emissions from the plant, and they contribute to the levels in the surrounding environment and therefore the Air Quality Objectives. A specific assessment will be carried out to assess the existing ground level concentrations and model any change due to the emissions from the plant. This will form part of the application for a PPC permit and for the planning application.

The relationship between the ELVs and the Air Quality Objectives is summarised in section 3.2.3 of the above document S5.01 (pages 121-122). However, it is described in more detail in a more general document: IPPC: A practical guide (edition 4, June 2005) published by The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/ppc/envagency/pubs/pdf/ippcguide_ed4.pdf

DEFRA has also produced a guide to the Waste Incineration Directive, published June 2006, which is available on: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/ppc/envagency/pubs/pdf/wid-guidance-edition3.pdf>