

DELEGATED

**AGENDA NO
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

2 MARCH 2011

**REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR,
DEVELOPMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD
SERVICES**

10/0258/EIS

Former ICI Anhydrite Mine, Grow How Facility, Haverton Hill Road
Conversion of part of former ICI anhydrite mine to a 4 million cubic metres waste storage facility. Material deposited will comprise Air Pollution Control Residues (fly ash), a hazardous waste (as defined) within the Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005, together with above ground site office, laboratory, staff car park, an enclosed bulk APCR material handling and treatment facility and enclosed area containing 2 mine shaft entrances and winding gear

Expiry Date: 7 July 2010

Update Report

Since the publication of the main report the following neighbour responses have been received;

Kenneth Charlton, 6 Kielder Close, Billingham, TS22 5RP

I wish to register my strong opposition to the above proposal, limited details of which were published in today's Northern Echo. Despite your assurances that the proposal has been widely publicised since it was lodged in February, 2010, I cannot recall any references to this proposal having appeared in Billingham-wide publications such as the 'Herald and Post' or the 'Free Community Newspaper', which are delivered to every household in the town.

Having spoken with you by telephone about the proposal, my concerns relating to this and possible future developments have increased. Bearing in mind the extent of the potential storage facilities within the mine complex, I cannot avoid believing that the proposer's concerned, or any succeeding proposer's are likely to attempt to extend the limits and nature of materials to be disposed of in such operations.

In short, I view this proposal as an exercise in the employment of a 'Trojan Horse', with major implications for the detriment of the local environment and for the long term health of people in and around Billingham.

Annie, John and Robin O'Donnell

My struggle to find who to write to highlights why there have been so few objections to the NPL scheme. A two day exhibition years ago at the Town Square is just not enough to publicise this proposal. Every Billingham resident I've spoken to has objections to the town being used as a dump again, and therefore the low level of objections will not represent the true reaction if this goes ahead.

Looking at the NPL Billingham newsletter on their website illustrates just how Billingham has been underestimated. Using children's drawings and pictures of playgrounds will not

impress a population that has worked for paternalistic firms in the past and had to deal with high pollution levels on a daily basis. In the 21st Century, with the emphasis on sustainability, zero carbon development and bio fuels, why should our town be used to store waste, as ash or in any other form. Why should our town have its reputation damaged still further by firms with 20th Century approaches? Why should we even think of having dealings with a firm that describes the area on its own website as being 'one of the largest industrial conurbations and WASTE PRODUCING AREAS IN THE UK'. If that is the best opinion they have of us, then they are not the type of company SBC should be dealing with. What are we, a dirty place for dirty schemes?

This plan to allow NPL to dump here is fundamentally wrong, and I wish to register my family objections to it in the strongest form.

The following additional responses have been received in relation to the letter received by Veolia Environmental Services PLC:

Environment Agency Response

We have considered the forwarded comments and I can confirm that this does not change the position as outlined in our consultation response (dated 17 February 2011, ref. NA/2010/104706/02-L02).

Wardell Armstrong Response

Veolia is a competitor to the applicant and so would be seeking to preserve their commercial position and their comments should be considered with this in mind.

All the matters raised have been given full consideration and been subject to detailed analysis and risk assessments. In consultation with the Environment Agency the detailed risk assessment has been refined and developed and the EA has maintained its position of no objections. It seems Veolia have not considered the reports prepared in support of the application.

The following correspondence has been received in response to the letter relating to pockets of gas present in the mine.

Wardell Armstrong Response

From a review of background records we are aware of a number of reported incidents relating to flammable gas emissions during the extraction of minerals in the working mine. Mining ceased many years ago and the risk of significant new gas emissions occurring is exceedingly low. Notwithstanding this the health and safety aspects relating to the operation of the closed mine as an underground waste facility will be carefully assessed and strictly controlled. There are regulatory requirements including those relating to ventilation and hazardous atmospheres to ensure that underground operations are carried out in a safe manner.

CONCLUSION

It is considered that the above issues have all been addressed in the main report and the additional correspondence does not change the recommendation that the application be approved with conditions.

**Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer Mrs Elaine Atkinson Telephone No 01642 526062**

WARD AND WARD COUNCILLORS

Ward **Billingham South**
Ward Councillor **Councillor Mrs J. O' Donnell**

Ward **Billingham South**
Ward Councillor **Councillor M. Smith**

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications: As Report

Environmental Implications: As Report

Legal Implications: As report

Human Rights Implications:

The provisions of the European Convention of Human Rights 1950 have been taken into account in the preparation of this report

Community Safety Implications:

The provisions of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 have been taken into account in the preparation of this report.