

Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth
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Cyfeillion y Ddaear

TO: Mr John Hogg
Head, Natural Resources Wales (S-E),

23 February 2017

Dear Mr Hogg,

Biomass UK No.2 Ltd. Incinerator, Barry Dock ref. PAN-000869

Three of your officers came to the Castleland/Barry meeting on 13th February, organised by Jane Hutt AM.

They brought no documentary information for distribution to the 50-60 public there and used company-speak about 'gasification' instead of the Waste incineration classification under which you have to regulate it.

While saying they were open to people writing in or visiting the office to view the file, they were unwilling to promise any further measures to make for real consultation.

The NRW's public participation statement under the EPR 2010 says you have a "policy of increased consultation on applications at sites where we consider there is, or is likely to be a high degree of public interest". But the officers were unwilling to say what that means and the possibilities mentioned in your Statement are very limited:

- extending consultation beyond 20 working days [we already had agreement to end of March];
- wider advertising, e.g. in local newspapers;
- consulting on the draft permit and decision document. [that's for all bespoke applications anyway].

As you know, consultation needs to inform the public (and other interested bodies) so that they can make informed comments to the regulator. We are seeking therefore active engagement, in further meeting(s) with local concerned people and providing documents with summary/display material locally, as the EA Wales previously provided.

Many residents are signing letters as the eight enclosed, asking for information and in particular asking for a public exhibition with public question-and-answer session on how you propose to license this polluting, bad-neighbour operation. They suggest you should liaise with our DIAG group (Docks Incinerator Action Group) over suitable arrangements.

You can expect further such letters, to help persuade you of the "high degree of public interest".
Once you accept this, your Regulatory Guidance RGN6 says

It is therefore necessary that – where appropriate - we allow sufficient time to involve communities and other statutory bodies throughout the process, and to consider carefully all representations that are made to us. We are likely to receive requests for information, and we must allow interested parties a reasonable period, not only to obtain information, but also to make informed responses based on that information. We will almost inevitably have to extend the time period for making these determinations, and the officers responsible for them must receive support where needed.

I look forward to hearing that you are ready to do this.

Max Wallis

Friends of the Earth Barry & Vale, DIAG group

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