

Dear Sir,

I am writing to object to the planning application to build a Gasification Incinerator and Power Station on the Marston Moor Business Park (Planning Application NY/2007/0331/ENV)

As a PhD chemist, former research scientist and technology consultant, I am very concerned about the health and safety issues that will arise from the operation of a BCB plant so close to Tockwith village.

I have also worked long enough in business to know that you will not be receiving adequate information from BCB and its advisors as to the negative health issues that will arise from the BCB plant at Tockwith if the project goes ahead.

I would like therefore to inform you of these issues and to put it on record that you have been informed of this.

You should be aware of the following HEALTH issues:

Given the technology used by BCB and the proximity to the houses, the BCB plant will emit the following hazardous materials into the village:

1. Dioxin & Furan - during start-up, shut-down and filter bypass events - this cannot be avoided
2. Arsenic, Mercury, Lead, Vanadium, manganese, Nickel, Chromium and Cadmium - heavy metals which are toxic even at very minute levels - will be emitted during normal operation - BCB technology cannot prevent this.
3. Fine particles (e.g. PM2.5) - which are currently linked to infant mortality - modern particle filters can only capture 65-70% of fine particles below PM2.5 - the rest goes straight into the atmosphere. Plants like the one proposed by BCB are known to be a significant source of PM2.5.
4. Incinerator Bottom Ash - has high levels of heavy metals - IBA re-use is still in its infancy and is not considered safe even with additional engineering treatments

While BCB may attempt to quote selective compliance with European Waste Incineration Directives (i) compliance cannot be assured during all times of operation and (ii) compliance figures (when actually complied with) become irrelevant for a plant situated so close to a inhabited area - where there is not enough distance between the plant and local schools and houses to disperse gas and particulate emissions.

In summary

You must be aware that for Health & Safety (and subsequent political) reasons it is extremely unwise to allow the building of a Gasification Incinerator and Power Station so close to the village of Tockwith. It would also be unwise to assume that the information being submitted (and not submitted) by BCB in its pursuit of own interests is anything other than selective.

I hope you will take personal responsibility for the matter.

Dr Dominic Curran