

**1 DCSW2003/3281/N - WASTE TREATMENT (USING AN AUTOCLAVE) & RECYCLING FACILITY, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUILDING, STONEY STREET INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MADLEY, HEREFORD, HR2 9NQ**

**For: Estech Europe Ltd per Enviros Consulting Ltd,  
Enviros House, Shrewsbury Business Park,  
Shrewsbury, SY2 6LG**

**Date Received: 7th November 2003    Ward: Stoney Street    Grid Ref: 41742, 36979**

**Expiry Date: 27th February 2004**

Local Member:    Councillor D. C. Taylor

**1.    Site Description and Proposal**

1.1    The application site is part of the Stoney Street Industrial Estate, Madley, part of a former World War Two RAF base. It is located about 700 metres north-west of Kingstone, 1.7kms south of Madley and 9.5kms to the west of the centre of Hereford. The Madley Earth Tracking Station is about 800m to the north-east. The site itself is irregular in shape, its longest dimensions about 260m east-west and about 97m north-south. It is bounded by the Dene Industrial Estate to the south-east and Stone Street to the west. There are existing industrial buildings (some disused) (some of which are former military buildings) on three sides and fields to the south. The nearest house is at Dene Villa about 36m to the south-east of the application site boundary and about 115m from the proposed building. The surrounding area is semi-rural. The former runways are clearly detectable and there are scattered farms and houses in the wider landscape.

1.2    The Proposal

The proposal is to develop a waste treatment and recycling plant to process 100,000 tonnes per annum of Municipal Solid Waste and Commercial Industrial Waste. The applicants state that they anticipate that the majority, if not all, of this waste would be from municipal waste collection services in Hereford and the surrounding areas. Treated material would be exported off site.

1.3    Buildings

The process would be undertaken in a proposed new building 112m x 54m x 12m to the eaves, 15m to the apex with an additional 5m high chimney. The building itself is a standard twin-bay steel portal building with profiled steel cladding and blockwork. The roof would be curved profiled metal cladding, the floor concrete. Three-storey offices, staff facilities and a visitor centre (550 sq metre floorscape) and viewing gallery would be located at the west end of the building, with operational processes concentrated in the southern half of the building and vehicle movement areas within the northern half. Vehicle access would be through two doors, each 6m wide and 5.1m tall. Separate pedestrian doors are also proposed.

1.4    The application also includes proposals for two weighbridges and an associated office, car parking and fuel and water tanks. The site as a whole is 2.56 hectares in size, of

which the buildings would cover 0.72 hectares, hardstandings for waste vehicles (to the north of the building) 0.34 hectares, and car parking (30 spaces to the south) 0.2 hectares, leaving about half the site undeveloped.

#### 1.5 Process

The proposed operations are to tip waste for treatment onto a concrete floor within the reception hall, transfer it via a loading shovel into feed hoppers where it would be checked and bulky or prohibited items removed. From the hopper waste would be conveyed through barriers and weighing systems to remove oversized materials into one of two 70 ton intermediate storage hoppers to allow batch processing and monitoring of the waste through either of the two proposed autoclaves.

1.6 The applicants state that wastes would be cleared from the working floor each day and that any overnight waste stored in the hoppers would be covered to minimise smells and prevent access by vermin. The two autoclaves would each be 3m in diameter, 18m long and could contain 20 tons of waste. The autoclaves would be sealed, the waste treated with steam at 160 degrees centigrade under low pressure (5 bar) and rotated at 12RPM. Steam would be injected for around 15 minutes at a constant basis and maintained for 30 to 40 minutes (dependant upon the waste processed).

1.7 Treated wastes would consist of sanitised products (metals and plastics) (less than 20%), homogenous organic fibre (more than 60%) and sanitised waste for landfill (less than 20%), these would be screened using a trommel, sieves and air classifiers to separate out the lighter material (organic fibre) and heavier materials (grit, glass and metals) which would be further separated by magnet, eddy current separator and by machine or hand sorting into distinct streams for packaging and onward distribution. The proposed end use would be a mixture of landfill (residual waste, less than 20%), direct recyclables (e.g. metals and plastics about 20%) or re-use. The applicants state that the greater part of the treated waste (60% +) would be organic fibre capable of being used for a number of applications, including insulation, fibre board, as a bio-mass fuel or, after further treatment, as a compost. The waste volume is stated to be reduced by around 65% by the process.

#### 1.8 Emissions

The applicants emphasise that no emissions should be released to atmosphere by the process except steam escaping when the autoclave door is opened for the removal of treated wastes and steam evaporating from the treated waste as it goes through the various processes to separate out recyclables, etc. These emissions would be captured by extractor fans, condensed and re-used, Negative air pressure is proposed within the building as a whole to treat air within the building to remove particulates (via a wringing separator) and odours (using an ultra-violet/ozonation system). Floors will be swept clean every night and any waste held overnight stored in covered hoppers. The intention is stated that no wastes would be stored overnight except in case of breakdown or emergency.

#### 1.9 Hours of Operation

The proposal is to operate the site 24 hours a day, 6 days a week (not Sundays or Bank Holidays except for maintenance or in exceptional circumstances). In practice working is anticipated to be over 16 hours per day but the applicants state that permission for 24 hour working is required to allow for essential maintenance and flexibility for peaks in demand.

#### 1.10 Vehicle Movements

Vehicle movements into and out of the site are proposed from 7.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. and the applicants state that the doors of the facility would be closed outside of these hours. The submitted environmental statement predicts that there would be 160, ten tonne vehicle movements per day. This has subsequently been revised to an estimate that, imports of 400 tonnes per day over 5 days per week and 50 weeks per year (equivalent to 100,000 tonnes) 50% would be delivered in ten tonne loads and 50% in 17.5 tonne loads. This gives estimates of 58 product movements in per day and on the same basis 54 vehicles removing treated waste out, i.e. a generation of 112 product vehicles per day. A maximum of 160 movements per day. Vehicles would be under the applicants' direct or contractual control and could therefore be limited to prescribed routes. The primary access proposed is off the A465 trunk road along the B4352, past Clehonger and south along Roman Road at the Comet crossroads to the south site.

#### 1.11 Drainage

Rainwater would be drained into an external collection tank to supplement mains water to feed the boiler. Water from external hardstandings would be drained to the industrial estate's existing drainage system discharging into the Coldstone Brook via two oil interceptor/grip traps. Dirty water (e.g. washdown waters from the process building) and sewage would be discharged to foul sewer.

#### 1.12 External Activities

The proposal includes signs at the entrance, lighting, to provide a minimum of 25 lux for external areas, security gates and supplementary fencing (details to be agreed) and a small landscaping block 800 sq metres to the south east of the main building. The applicants state that space constraints limit the potential for further landscape planting but that hedges and trees at the far end of the site would be retained.

#### 1.13 Environmental Controls

Proposed methods of controlling odour, dust, litter, vermin, noise and air quality are set out. It is estimated that construction would take 8 months, working 7am until 7pm weekdays and 9am - 5pm Saturdays, and would require 3 temporary porta-cabins on site.

1.14 The application is accompanied by plans and a statement of support, letters of clarification and a statutory Environmental Statement. The Environmental Statement includes, inter-alia, an assessment of the proposed development and design principles, planning policy, need, alternatives and BPEO, and assessments of effects on traffic, agricultural quality, ecology, noise and vibration, archaeology and other issues. Ten possible sites for the proposal are discussed with the conclusion that the Madley site was the best. The Ecological Survey of the site found one Great Crested Newt on one occasion, in a concrete water sump. This is a European Protected Species. 34 smooth newt larvae were also found but no other protected species.

1.15 The applicants have held two demonstrations on site, one open to the public, using a one-tenth scale plant.

### 2. Policies

To be included

### 3. Planning History



of the proposal, the potential for pollution and its effects, effects on water resources and quality, the undesirable intensification of the industrial estate, effects on local amenities, problems arising from nuisances, smell, noise, steam, smoke, fumes, effluent and from 24 hour working, overlooking, effects on the landscape, ecology and protected species, the importance of the BPEO concept and the proximity principle, and human rights issues. The most significant single area of concern raised by objectors, however, is that arising from the increased volume of traffic, particularly the increase in the number of large vehicles, perceived increases in congestion both close to the site and far afield, especially Hereford itself, and the perceived increased risk of accidents to local people.

- 5.2 Nine letters of support have also been received, including one from Mercia Waste Management.

The full text of these letters can be inspected at Planning Services: Minerals & Waste, Blueschool House, Blueschool Street, Hereford and prior to the Sub-Committee meeting.

**6. Officers Appraisal**

- 6.1 At the time of writing a number of matters are still outstanding, this is therefore only a preliminary report. Officers hope to be able to bring a further report for determination to the meeting of the Sub-Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2004. The scale and character of the proposal and of the public interest in it are such that officers consider that Members would find it useful to inspect the site and its surroundings before determining the application.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That Members hold a formal Site Inspection to consider the possible effects of the proposal on the character and appearance of the area.**

Decision: .....

Notes: .....

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**Background Papers**

Submitted Environmental Statement