

RT HON ANDREW MURRISON MD MP

AM/JCP/01/260620 (AM14900)

(Please ensure that the letter reference is quoted on return correspondence).

26 June 2020

Mr Neil Bennett
Northacre Renewable Energy
Davidson House
Forbury Square
READING
RG1 3EU

Dear Mr Benentt

Thank you for your telephone call on Friday and subsequent letter regarding the plans your company has developed to switch from the gassification plant at Westbury for which you have relevant permissions to a conventional incinerator for which you do not.

I note that you are taking the opportunity to increase the amount of waste burnt at Westbury substantially to 243,000 tonnes a year. You do not state whether Wiltshire Council will be invited to share risk on feedstuff volumes through a minimum tonnage guarantee. I would resist such an arrangement since the perverse incentives it would introduce to set aside the imperatives of the waste hierarchy are clear.

I will resist anything that, in the absence of a bypass, will foist more heavy traffic on my constituents, particularly in the middle of Westbury. What you are proposing will inevitably increase traffic along the A350 and through Westbury. I very much doubt it will be as 'imperceptible' to my constituents living on top of it as it is to you.

I further note current functional overcapacity of existing incinerator and gasification sites nationally. Your business model depends on a reliable stream of 'residual' waste that includes material capable of being recycled and reused rather than burnt and discharged to air.

It is not yet clear to me how the change in emissions standards you cite has affected the calculus. However the further reason you offer for the change I judge to be spurious. Specifically, the assertion that 'Brexit uncertainties' threaten your (gasification) supply chains. We are invited to accept without evidence that this uncertainty would impact on gasification more than conventional incineration. I do accept that both types of plant would be potential beneficiaries if waste cannot

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Email: andrew.murrison.mp@parliament.uk Telephone: 01225 358584
website: www.andrewmurrison.co.uk twitter: AWMurrison

be transported to the EU since it would then need to be processed in the U.K., in facilities like yours.

The important point that you do not touch on in your material is that gasification is greener, more efficient and, crucially, more expensive than conventional incineration.

Your online material points to job creation but you have not said how many more or less will be created through your revised plans.

In summary, you can be sure that I will oppose strongly your attempt to dump an old style incinerator on the doorsteps of my constituents.

I am copying this to the Leader of Wiltshire Council and making it publicly available.

Yours sincerely

Copy: Mr Philip Whitehead, Leader of Wiltshire Council

Mr Philip Whitehead
Leader of the Council
Cabinet Office
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
TROWBRIDGE
BA14 8JN