



- **AGENDA**

Rookery South ERF - Community Liaison Panel

Monday October 17th 2022

Rookery South Offices/Board Room

- **Introductions/Group ground rules/Apologies**
- (5 mins – BF)
- **Approval of notes from previous CLP Meeting**
- (5 mins - BF)
- **Matters arising from last meeting (15 mins - BF)**
- **General Manager Update: (15 mins –NG)**
- **Plant Manager Update: (15 mins – PK)**
- **Questions (10 mins)**
- **Regulator and Local Authority Feedback**
 - Environment Agency
 - Planning (+ Questions)
- **Millbrook Power update**
- **AOB (5 mins)**
- **Date of next CLP meeting**

Rookery South ERF – Community Liaison Panel – 17th October 2022

General Manager's Update



	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
WASTE (tonnes)	37,900	0	32,900
POWER (MWh)	31,200	0	19,600

Plant Operations

- Facility Manager
- Recent outage
- Recruitment
- Emissions reporting

Waste Supply

- Sourcing
- Mix (household/business)

Community Programmes

- Community Trust Fund (Panel met today for 2nd round of 2022 funding)
- Re-opening of Footpaths/Cycle routes in Rookery Pit (Construction almost completed)

Other Activities

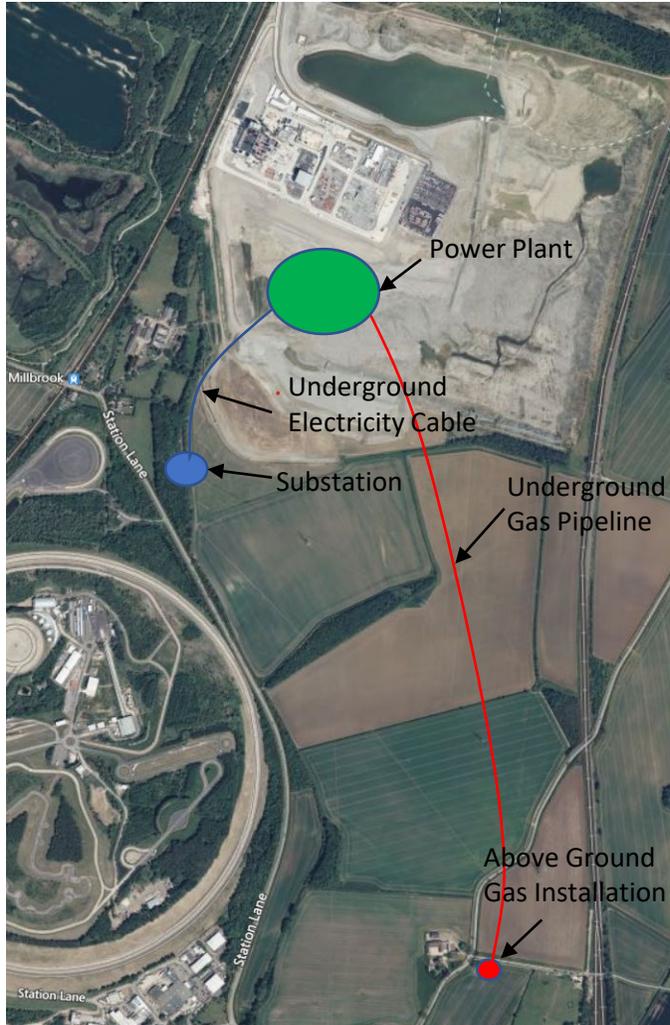
- Visitor Centre fit-out underway
 - Opening and practicalities
- New Website under development
- Estates and Information Manager started
- Green Lane highway survey

Rookery South ERF – Community Liaison Panel – 17th October 2022

Rookery North Trail



Millbrook Power – Community Liaison Panel 17th October 2022



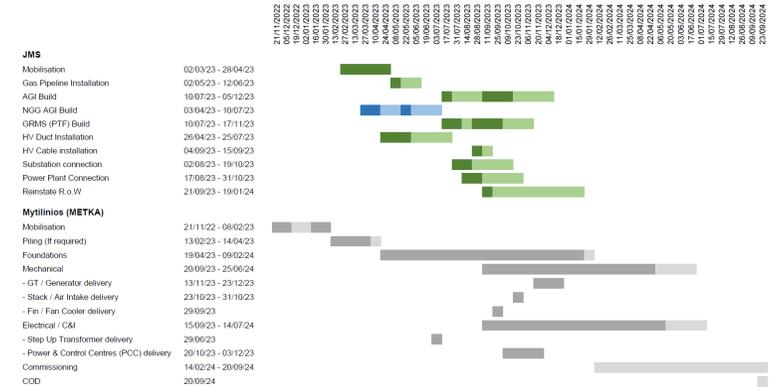
Low Level Restoration Scheme

- Related to MPL Area
- Substantially complete



Works to commence in next six months

- Vinci (for National Grid)
 - Currently surveying site
 - Mobilising November
 - Main Works January
 - Peak Traffic 130 movements/day
- Metka (Power Plant)
 - Mobilising November
 - Main Works February
 - Peak Traffic 260 movements/day
- J.Murphy (Connections)
 - February



Rookery South CLP Meeting 23 Notes

Monday 17th October 2022 – 6.00 pm, Rookery South offices

Present:

CLP Members – Representatives from: Brogborough PC; Marston Moretaine PC; Millbrook PC; Stewartby PC; Wootton PC; Lidlington PC; Lidlington Resident; Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership; CBC - Cllr Sue Clark (SC)

Observers/Presenters – Rookery South Ltd: Judith Harper (JH), Neil Grimstone (NG); Patrick Kelly (PK); Nick Henderson (NH); Environment Agency Emma d’Avilar; CBC - Dee Walker (DW); Drax Millbrook David Ball (DB)

Facilitator: Bob Fisher (rmpfisher77@gmail.com)

Apologies: Neil Goudie (EA); Roy Romans; Cllr Tim Hill. Cranfield PC, Marston Vale Forest Centre; Houghton Conquest PC.

1. Introductions

Patrick Kelly Plant Manager Covanta, Nick Henderson Covanta, Neil Wright (Brogborough PC), David Ball (Drax), Jean Peall (Lidlington PC)

2. Approval of Notes from previous CLP Meeting

Aside from one objection to the wording on an item re. the Penstock valve the Notes from the July Meeting were approved.

3. Matters Arising

There was also a brief update from BF on the outcome of the special meeting to discuss membership of a group that opposed the construction of Rookery South ERF.

SC was disappointed at the way the issue had been handled by RSL but will not go against the final decision. However, as a local representative, she felt it was legitimate for NRR and/or CR to attend as private residents, which was supported by others.

RSL stated that Nicola Ryan Raine and Colin Raine can attend future meetings as individuals by contacting NG via email individually.

It was noted that details of the Geminor contract with Swansea Council is on the public record and that contact with Swansea Council about this did not emanate from the CLP.

Members would like dates of outages, such as in August, published on the RSL Website as due to the meeting notes approval process there is no public awareness of these dates until after the event.

Further to a query re the potential consequences of closing the Penstock valve the member was advised to contact RSL directly for technical details.

4. General Manager’s Update (NG) Slide 2

The plant is now running flat out now following the outages in the summer. One significant change is that RSL has a new Facility Manager, Patrick (Paddy) Kelly. PK provided an overview of his background and experience in operating similar plants.

The outages were challenging because they happened out of schedule, in order to attend to a warranty defect, which required all three lines to be taken out of commission at the same

time. Overall, the plant was off for 7 weeks – longer than expected - part of which was due to warranty repairs and partly due to the availability of contractors over the summer resulting from the need to bring forward the planned works. Following this, all 3 lines and the Turbine/generator are functioning very well.

There was some waste remaining in the bunker during the shutdown; however, no waste was received in August.

RSL confirmed that there was an unrelated spike in emissions prior to the controlled shutdown, on which the EA commented later in the meeting.

There was also an issue with flies in the office, which was dealt with, and reports of flies locally but not necessarily connected with the plant. The door of the Tipping Hall had been left open during painting for ventilation purposes. However, waste dries out and seals in the odours so there were no related odour complaints. When the plant was misted by pest control contractors, the flies disappeared.

The EA noted similar occurrences of flies at other plants that it regulates but was satisfied that RSL had taken appropriate action.

There have been no changes in waste supply in the last 3 months – the current waste mix is 69% household and 31% business waste coming in, more MSW than originally envisaged. In addition, Veolia has won a 50,000 tonne per annum contract to bring in more waste from Hertfordshire, alongside CBC, BBC and Norfolk.

The Community Trust Fund Panel met recently, so there will shortly be a fresh allocation of funds to local causes. One example of local benefits is the new footpath that is finally coming to fruition. The Rookery North Trail is 4 km long and there are 300 m remaining to be prepared; the aim is to have completed this by end of October. In addition, BBC want an adjacent ditch cleared. (*Slide 3*) Once this is done, the path will be turned over to the public & RSL will be putting up directional signage.

Questions

Why is there such a difference in the waste to power ratio between July and September?
(Slide 2)

When the Turbine is restarted, the steam has to be clean, due to build-up during the shutdown in August. i.e. some steam is released bypassing the turbine without generating power.

RSL commented in response to a question regarding the Green Lane Highway Survey. Under its planning conditions, RSL has to conduct a baseline condition survey of the highway prior to construction and then another survey one year after operations, which would show if there has been some deterioration. The latter survey has been done and shows that there has been some deterioration, which would have to be put right, although a Section 278 Agreement is required with BBC before improvements can be made. There will be four surveys in all. RSL confirmed that following these improvements, BBC will be responsible for upkeep.

Fitting out of the RSL Visitor Centre is under way, including the exhibits, the furnishings, and the installation of the refreshment area. It will be 'road-tested' from mid-November and open for school and community visits in the New Year. NG acknowledged the role of Anita Taylor (Estates & Information Manager) in driving this forward. Practicalities such as protective clothing for visitors, recommended minimum ages for visitors, establishing a safe route to

walk around the plant still need to be worked on. The Visitor Centre will also looking for local people to help with the running of the centre.

Finally, the new RSL Website is still under development; this will be a subset of the Covanta Europe website and so this has to be consistent with other related facilities.

5. Drax/Millbrook Power Update (DB) (see slide 4)

The plant will be located on the south side of RSL and will connect to the National Grid near Station Lane, Millbrook. Drax have appointed various contractors; the main power plant is being built by Metka who will be installing a Siemens turbine and bringing portacabins to the site in November, with the main work starting in February 2023.

Site traffic will reach a peak in mid-2023 when there are expected to be c. 130 movements per day. J. Murphy will also start work on connections in Feb 2023, mostly crossing the fields, doing trenchworks. They will also be crossing roads and footpaths, although they have a scheme to keep the footpaths open during construction works. The area outside the plant footprint has been levelled off before commencing work on the site, as part of the planning requirements under the Low Level Restoration Scheme (LLRS).

Also, in line with the planning agreement, Drax will be setting up its own CLP in due course and have been discussing the logistics of this e.g. unwilling to conflate issues between the two companies [see update below].

[BF note: Drax will be setting up its own CLP, probably from Jan 2023. This will be a separate meeting from the Rookery South CLP and will take place in a different venue, TBC. As details have already been agreed under planning terms, the meeting will comprise updates on construction, in the first instance and then operations subsequently.]

Questions

What will be the effect of current gas prices on the availability of gas? Also, will Drax's CLP dovetail into the RSL CLP?

Gas prices are certainly an issue at the moment. However, the plant will not be in operation until 2024, so hopefully the situation then may be different by then. At the moment, projects like this are making quite a good return, doing a lot of work for systems services.

Concern expressed about peak traffic of 260 movements per day and that this will place too much pressure on Green Lane, combined with Covanta and residents' traffic. How long will peak traffic movements last?

Approximately 4 weeks and Drax will liaise with RSL with the scheduling of these, as clearly peak movements cannot occur at the same time.

What agreement covers the issue of transport movements? What does Drax's DCO allow for?

The DCO allows for 260 movements per day (130 in/ 130 out) over the construction period – the peak of traffic movements will over by mid-2023. When the plant moves into operations, there will be on average 3 (e.g. two cars and a van) vehicles per day.

Noted that as part of the East-West rail project Network Rail does not plan to close Broadmead Road but will provide a bridge. There are still no dates for the rail improvement works.

Has work started on the Station Lane entrance?

Millbrook Power has done some survey works there, so a section of vegetation has been cleared for safety reasons and then work will probably start in November. The traffic will be coming from the north, rather than through Millbrook.

Why is the plant called Millbrook Power? (- it is not in Millbrook parish.)

It was historic and before Drax acquired the project. The plant is situated more in Marston Vale and Drax does not use the Millbrook name. The Grid has already changed the name of the sub-station to Marston Vale sub-station.

How will traffic be prevented from coming through Millbrook?

Drax will instruct its contractors (i.e. J Murphy & Sons and Metka) not to go through Millbrook; if they do so, Drax will put a marshal there and penalties will apply if there are any breaches (to be discussed with the contractors). The problem often lies with deliveries, such as DHL.

Also, drivers from outside the area using sat navs for direction is a problem. People in Millbrook get very angry about HGVs driving through the village.

As there are plans to phase out natural gas reserves? If so, how will the plant transfer over to hydrogen?

This is quite a long way away; however, it could transition to hydrogen.

Could Drax confirm the likely annual CO₂ output from the plant? What will the plant look like?

DB will be able to obtain information about this and include it in future slides.

6. Environment Agency Feedback (EdA)

The Emissions data that came in for Q2 have been analysed and no breaches have been reported for this period. Q3 data have only just come in; there are some breaches recorded in the report but these are yet to be analysed. They will be discussed next time. It was agreed that perhaps there should be something in this meeting where the operator talks about these data and the EA provides feedback.

There have been no other complaints apart from the fly issue in August (see above).

7. Local Authority Feedback (DW)

CBC walked the Rights of Way routes with RSL and all appears to be making progress. This is due for sign-off shortly. There were no non-compliances to report.

8. AOB

Responding to a query that the RSL website appears to have no CLP Meeting notes after October 2021. RSL noted there have been difficulties putting meeting notes on to the website, due to having to liaise with Covanta (USA), now a separate company, but undertook to have the meeting notes uploaded.

It was confirmed that the RSL website will be up and running early next year; there are quite a lot of inter-related websites, which has made things a little complicated.

Lidlington PC wishes to create a wildflower meadow – would there be any funding from RSL for this?

RSL agreed that there could be, possibly from the Community Trust Fund or in the RSL budget; and that the PC should please contact NG by email.

Millbrook PC confirmed that RSL had been very generous with similar requests in the past.

Would RSL be able to accommodate local residents from Stewartby visiting then looking round the plant after 19th November?

RSL would welcome visits from all Parish Councils and indeed any organised/educational/community group ideally of up to 8 people.

Does RSL have a policy to create an environment to encourage residents and businesses to produce less waste?

Any change of behaviour is a public responsibility. In terms of the waste that comes to the site, which is only residual waste, only metal and the ash can be recovered. Glass will form part of the bottom ash. It is better – and more efficient – to separate rubbish appropriately at home rather than at the plant.

Has there been any update on Emissions data (as noted in previous meetings)?

RSL will be giving a report to the EA at the end of the month.

9. Next Meeting

Monday 23rd Jan 2023, 6pm at Rookery South