

# Rookery South CLP Meeting 21 Notes

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – 6.30 pm, Rookery South offices

## Present:

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

**Observers/Presenters** – Rookery South Ltd: Judith Harper (JH), Neil Grimstone (NG); Roy Griffin (RG); Guest: Student observer (Marston Rail)

**Facilitator**: Bob Fisher ([rmpfisher77@gmail.com](mailto:rmpfisher77@gmail.com))

**Apologies for Absence**: Cranfield PC; Houghton PC; Cllr Tim Hill (BBC), Jon Shortland (BBC); Roy Romans (CBC); Cranfield PC; Environment Agency: Neil Goudie (NGd), Emma d'Avilar (Ed'A); CBC: Anita Taylor (AT)

## NOTES FROM THE MEETING

### 1. Introductions, CLP Ground rules & Apologies

The CLP welcomed Hugh Roberts (Marston Moretaine PC) & Alfie Whittaker (Student Observer - Marston Rail)

### 2. Approval of Notes from Meeting 20

The notes from Meeting 20 were approved, with one EODULEDWITHIN. On 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022, at 3.30 pm, there was a report from a member of the public of 'black smoke' coming from the stack. RSL checked the emissions and stack data at that time, and **it was advised that** there was no black smoke, but rather a light refraction event. Other ambient conditions, such as reflection and backlighting, might also create the impression of coloured smoke."

### 3. Matters Arising – Q & A

Details of the site model that will be put in the RSL visitor centre had been requested. This is addressed in the General Manager update below

**BACI** had raised a number of questions prior to the meeting, which have been answered by RSL, see attached separately.

**Q:** Geminor contract extends well beyond the 60-mile limit on waste deliveries; would there be any additional long-distance contracts?

**Answer :** The plant is full and not contracting any additional waste. Geminor's contract states that they have to supply 30,000 tonnes of waste per year, source not specified. This comes from Wales; Geminor will substitute closer waste, if possible as there is a clear cost incentive. The Norfolk contract is an 8-year contract with 7 years to run. However, apart from occasional deliveries, RSL does not plan to have deliveries of waste from longer distances on a regular basis.

The Geminor contract represents about 5% of total waste coming to the plant (30,000 out of c 540,000 tonnes).

**Q:** Re. the possibility of supplying heating to areas around the plant. What will happen if the plant closes or shuts down temporarily?

**Answer :** There would be a back-up boiler, probably fired by gas, located between RSL and the road.

**Q:** Would the gas supply be a tie-up with Millbrook Power?

**Answer :** Yes, it would.

**Q:** Has the Penstock valve been tested?

**Answer:** It has, as part of the commissioning process.

**Q:** Does RSL have the full range of high tech environmental controls at the plant, i.e. the same range, as stated in the report from the North London Waste Authority Incinerator at Edmonton? Does the Edmonton system have reduced emissions/improved air quality in the atmosphere?

**Answer:** There is a full suite of environmental equipment at the Rookery South ERF. The report cited is from another local authority & it is not possible to verify what is contained in that statement. Rookery South uses a system called SNCR, which involves ammonia being injected into the furnace; Edmonton uses a catalytic system which uses a heated gauze mesh. RSL can achieve similar denox levels with the system in place.

**Post meeting note:** Edmonton will use SCR (Selective Catalytic Reduction) and scrubbers to reduce NOx emissions rather than SNCR (Selective Non Catalytic Reduction) because there are particular issues with existing (background) NOx levels, and expects to achieve lower levels as a result.

#### **4. General Manager Update (NG)**

The plant is running near to capacity. There are occasional glitches, which is normal in the first year of operation. The plant is run cautiously and according to the constructors' requirements – otherwise it would invalidate guarantees - and will run right through to the summer. Rookery South is very incentivised to keep running, given the current situation re. power prices.

There is no change to the waste supply mix. The plant is generating less ash, both bottom ash and air pollution control residues (APCR) are lower (18% and less than 3% of waste respectively), which is very positive.

The Community Trust Fund received applications in the region of £300,000 of funding & there is around £90,000 to be allocated. The panel will be meeting very shortly to allocate those resources according to the criteria.

The Community Energy Initiative has almost completed the initial pay out of £100 to those who have claimed. The closing date for claims is 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

The upgrade of footpaths & cycle routes is progressing slower than had been hoped. The contract is for 2.5 km of cyclable routes running around three sides of the Rookery

North Pit and this will be implemented during the summer. Once approved by the Council they will be handed over for public use.

The Visitor Centre contract with Easy Tiger has now been signed & construction of the various exhibits is under way. (See slide) The main exhibit is an interactive model that consists of several different modules explaining in simple terms how the plant works. It will explain the science behind the operation of the plant and at the other end of the visitor centre there will be the Learning Area, with an auditorium to show films and so on. A physical model was not chosen as they are extremely expensive to produce and after a while they become rather dull and tired,

The plan is to open the centre in time for the next academic year. The Information Officer role (and other vacancies) has been posted on the Covanta website. As well as running the visitor Centre, the role will also be involved in issues of compliance, planning conditions, providing management information and managing the community programmes,

With regard to the company itself, there have been a number of significant changes:

- Green Investment Group is no longer a shareholder in Rookery South Ltd
- RSL is now owned by Covanta (80%) and Veolia (20%)
- Covanta is now fully owned by a Swedish investment fund (EQT)

EQT has decided to split Covanta into two companies – Covanta USA & Covanta Europe. Covanta Europe assets will consist of Dublin, RSL, plus Newhurst Facility (nr Loughborough), Protos (in Cheshire) - both of which are under construction – a plant in Italy and a one under construction in Scotland.

Covanta Europe will be a standalone company, with its own accounting system and website, which is being redesigned.

Millbrook Power is starting early construction works in about 2 weeks' time. They will first bring in 1000 tons of stone from Wales and construction will build up over the next year or so. The plant will be operational within 12-18 months; their trucks will be using the main access road and beyond the weighbridge they will have their own road.

**Q:** Vital Energi gave a very interesting presentation recently at CBC; it gives a good understanding of what's on offer to Marston Vale – and potentially beyond. It could be retro-fitted to existing houses, if the take-up were sufficient. Would they be able to give a similar talk to the CLP?

**Answer:** Yes Stewartby would be an obvious area to investigate; RSL is in regular dialogue with Vital Energi.

**Q:** Would it be possible to get an idea of the minimum number of houses that might be eligible, with Millbrook in mind?

**Answer:** To get started, the project would need around 1000 homes, but add-on could be a lot less.

Noted that CloudWing had pulled out of the development at Stewartby Brickworks and the development site is now controlled by Hanson.

**Q:** Re: the new owners of Covanta – would there be any difference in governance between those plants located in the EU and those that were not?

**Answer:** None; for the UK plant there is a UK board with an independent chairman, Dr Phillip Nolan. EQT has brought in European-based experts and engineers to advise them. Therefore, it is a European board, not an American one and the regulations for the EU plants and non-EU plants are the same.

**Q:** Would it make sense for Millbrook Power to attend the RSL CLP – or will they have their own stakeholder meeting?

**Answer :** Millbrook Power had been invited to this meeting, but considers that they had not yet made enough progress. In principle, they would prefer to come to this meeting.

**Q:** Is there an update on rail access to the Rookery site?

**Answer:** There are two possibilities: –

1) there are no obvious collection points for waste coming from Norfolk as it's a big county. As Veolia pays for transport costs, it's their decision, but at present it is not of interest to Veolia.

2) re. the removal of 100,000 tonnes of bottom ash produced. Covanta has put in planning permission for an ash treatment centre near Wellingborough, which is situated near the London–Sheffield line. At present, it's not clear whether rail transport would be viable, but it is being looked at.

**Q:** What is the procedure for booking in school and college groups to the Visitor Centre?

**Answer:** Bookings will be dealt with by the Visitor Centre Manager once in post. Visits would be free of charge.

**Marston Rail** asked about rail sidings near the plant.

**Answer:** There is a 25 year option on land to the west of the building, and RSL has to carry out a Rail Feasibility study every 5 years; a study was done recently, so it is about halfway through that period.

It would be a challenge getting the rail head in & would require the erection of possibly two large gantry cranes to transfer material from the train to a small shuttle vehicle. This would need quite a large contract for it to be viable. As an illustration, it took the whole of Greater Manchester to supply Runcorn plant with 300,000 tonnes of waste.

## **5. Plant Manager Update (RG)**

The plant operation was handed over by HZI to RSL. It has now entered a 3-year warranty period, under which any failure or defect in materials or design can be raised with HZI.

There have been a couple of periods when the plant has stopped operating briefly since the last meeting, to allow the operator to intervene:

- In February, there was a 5-day period when the turbine was off in order to carry out a cooling pump repair.
- In March, a fan developed a fault and was removed for re-machining and re-installation; the plant was down for 2½ weeks as a result.

The next major activities will occur in August, September and October, when there will be planned outages for lines 1, 2 and 3 in order to carry out 12-month servicing activity.

The other matter relates to the fuel supply chain. Covanta has contacted the EA on three occasions to inform them of emissions issues. In each case this was due to a gas cylinder in the waste causing a process aberration.

There have been no issues re. safety, but the plant has an observation system to detect and solve safety problems. The target is to achieve 200 observations per month and Covanta will monitor the observation data coming through in due course.

**Q:** When there is an incident, such as the gas cylinder, can you trace the source?

**Answer:** RSL is working with the Fuel Supply Manager, Katie Darvill, who will be visiting all the supply facilities, where there should normally be a segregation process to detect and eliminate any gas cylinders. If a site doesn't have this segregation process, RSL will work with the supplier to ensure that this process is implemented.

**Q:** By reporting these incidents to the EA will RSL have a 'black mark' against it?

**Answer:** Three instances will be recorded by the EA where the carbon content emissions values exceeded the limit as a result of the gas cylinders and, therefore need to be reported. Essentially, if a gas cylinder detonates there will be a small explosion which puts a positive pressure pulse into the furnace causing a process aberration, which will cause the plant to trip. The EA will be coming on to the site on Friday [29/04] and will report these three events, which will become a matter of public record when they are posted on to the EA website. The link to this data will be made available for the meeting notes via a link, TBA.

**Q:** Will the planned timings for activities in August September and October be more widely distributed?

**Answer:** It's important to be open so information will be publicised via these notes as there will be an increase in activity and traffic during this period.

## **5. Regulator & Local Authority Feedback**

**CBC** prepared the following summary for the meeting:

*The Council is continuing to work with Rookery South Limited to ensure all requirements of the DCO and S106 agreement are complied with. The monitoring officer last visited the site on 18th March. Her report did not identify any issues arising from the visit which could be considered significant breach of planning requirements. CBC Planning visited the site on 20th March with Rights of Way colleagues from both BBC and CBC, predominantly to assess progression with the rights of way scheme. Further discussion with Rookery South will take place on this matter to ensure the routeing of the rights of way is appropriate. It is hoped that the routes will be available to the public later on this year."*

Questions on this statement should be directed to AT at CBC Planning as necessary.

As noted above, the EA were not present at this meeting. However, **Ed'A** sent belated apologies by email, as she had been on call and been diverted elsewhere. **NGoudie** was off on medical leave.

There were no new updates to share; the EA noted that the site has entered into full operation and as mentioned above in RG's update, a visit is planned for week commencing 25/05, the outcomes of which she will share at the next meeting.

RSL confirmed to a question that the EA is an interested party but their presence was not a requirement for the CLP to be quorate. The EA had joined the panel at the request of the CLP members.

## 6. AOB

**Millbrook PC** reported back on the first meeting of the Rookery South Community Trust Fund in early March. There was £190,000 in the budget for this year and there would be three rounds of applications. There had been about 17 applications. The RSCTF would be meeting again on 9<sup>th</sup> May and will be looking at medium and large applications; next year smaller grants would be considered.

**Q:** There have been anecdotal reports of emissions from the plant – not from the stack but from other, more general areas of the plant. There were also coincidental reports of smells and emissions which were not water vapour. Does the emissions monitoring cover these types of reports?

**Answer:** Emissions reporting only covers the three stacks; the monitors are located at the bottom of the stacks; there are vents in the roof for steam release. ***Post meeting note: the EA permit contains a section on odour; if notified by the EA that the site is causing odours outside the site Covanta has to submit an odour management plan.***

**Q:** What is the likely effect of the current rise in inflation on the running of Rookery South and its transport costs?

**Answer:** All contracts are indexed to inflation; the electricity that RSL sells is not indexed; it just goes up and down with the market. It is doubtful RSL would be in any difficulty with regard to inflation.

**Marston Rail** updates – 1) The Marston Vale line is due to have a full timetable reinstated on May 16<sup>th</sup> subject to confirmation. 2) There is an ongoing signalling problem with the Marston Road crossing in Lidlington, which is up for review on 9<sup>th</sup> May. Marston Rail are chasing Network Rail about this.

**Q:** Regarding land ownership just outside the plant on Green Lane, there used to be a section of fencing there before construction started and there was also a rail replacement bus stop there. This bus stop is no longer marked & Marston Rail would like this to be reinstated.

**Answer:** The land is owned by O&H Properties; **Marston Rail** contact details will be passed on.

## 7. Date of Next Meeting

18<sup>th</sup> July 2022

# Rookery South ERF - Community Liaison Panel



## AGENDA Monday April 25<sup>th</sup> 2022 Rookery South Board Room

- **Introductions/Group ground rules/Apologies (BF)**
- **Approval of notes from previous CLP Meeting (BF)**
- **Matters arising from last meeting (BF)**
- **RSL General Manager Update: (NG)**
- **Facility Manager Update: (RG)**
- **Questions**
- **Regulator and Local Authority Feedback**
  - - Environment Agency
  - - Planning
- **Questions and Answers**
- **AOB**
- **Date & Items for next meeting**



**ROOKERY  
SOUTH**  
Energy Recovery Facility

# Rookery South ERF – Community Liaison Panel – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## General Manager's Update



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
WASTE (tonnes)	45,400	40,500	42,800
POWER (MWh)	43,400	31,700	34,000

### Waste Suppliers

- Veolia Municipal Contracts
- Veolia Commercial & Industrial waste
- F & R Cawley (Luton)
- Geminor

### In 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter:

- 22,900 tonnes of Bottom Ash
- 3,000 tonnes of Air Pollution Control Residues transported from Rookery site

### Community Programmes

- Community Trust Fund (Decision Panel to meet on 9<sup>th</sup> May)
- Community Energy Initiative – initial payments completed
- Upgrade to Footpaths/Cycle routes in North part of pit

### Initiatives

- Visitor Centre contract executed – will open Q3/2022
- Information Officer (Visitor Centre Manager) recruitment
- District heating project: Vital Energi engaged

### Rookery South Limited

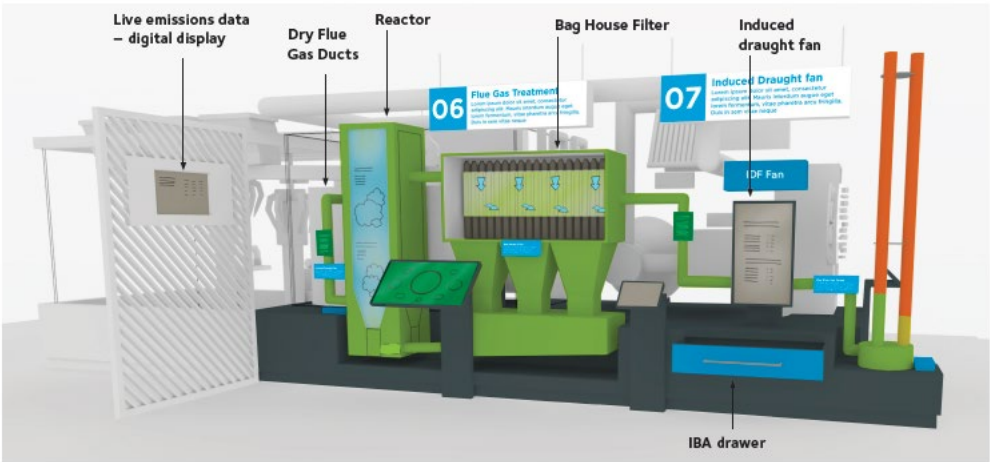
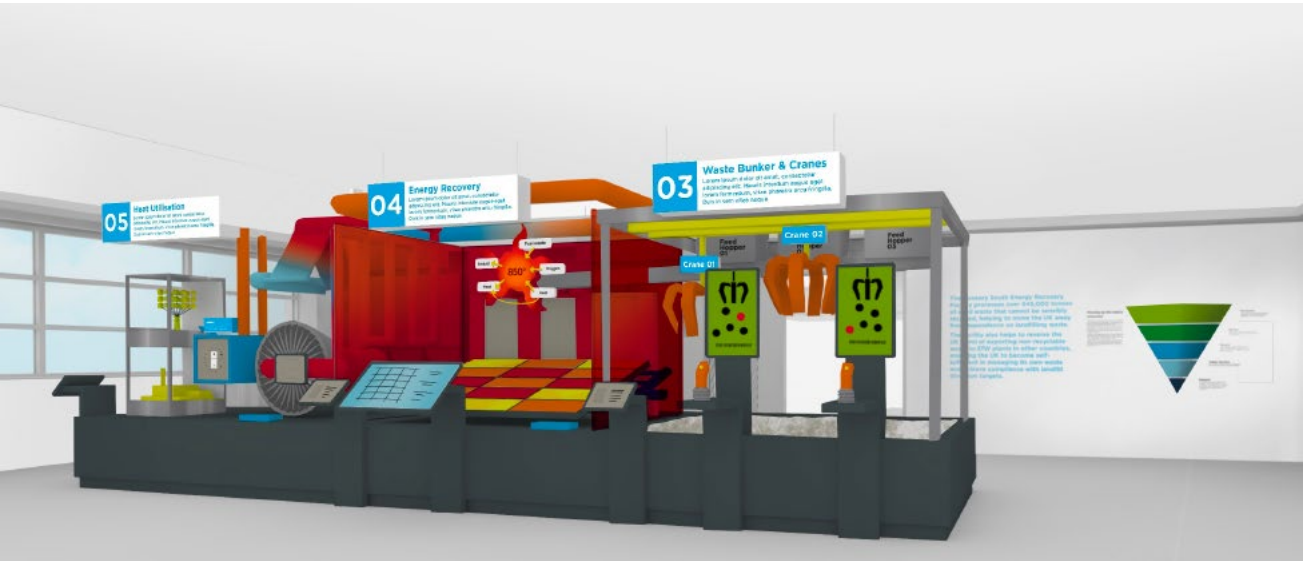
- Sale of Green Investment Group shares
- EQT: Ownership of Covanta
- Covanta Europe
- Website

### Millbrook Power update



# Rookery South ERF – Community Liaison Panel – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## Visitor Centre Exhibit



## APPENDIX

### Pre-Meeting Technical Questions & Answers - 25/04/22

#### Questions for Covanta (RSL)

1. Following on from a question at the last CLP relating to the information given on the RSL website for PM filtering.

**Answer:** RSL is currently reviewing the entire website and will consider the suggestions made. The website is currently administered by Covanta USA which has presented some delays in mounting the data, particularly the [now] historical information, which can be rectified once Covanta Europe has full control. The Council is satisfied with the display information, and specifically the requirement to post at public buildings on the basis that the internet is readily available compared to when the requirement was drafted over 10 years ago.

The table below shows Rookery South's permitted emission limits for daily and half hourly periods.

Substance	*% of ELVs	Limit (½ hour average)	Limit (Daily average)
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	10%	150 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	50 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Sulphur Dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> )	20%	200 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	50 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO <sub>x</sub> )	20%	400 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	200 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Particulates ("dust")	30%	30 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	10 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	30%	20 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	10 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Hydrogen Chloride (HCl)	40%	60 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	10 mg/m <sup>3</sup>

\*the values of the 95% confidence intervals of a single measured result at the daily emission limit value shall not exceed the following percentages of the emission limit values:

2. Following on from a question at the last CLP regarding the employment of local residents, does Covanta (RSL) have the figure of how many of the 55 full-time positions have been filled by staff who were local residents prior to their employment?

#### **Covanta/RSL response:**

- 47 people were recruited against the projected jobs number in 2021. All positions were advertised externally in local media.
- Current staff are located as follows:
  - 26 from 'MK' Milton Keynes postcodes, which includes Bedford
  - 4 from Northampton
  - 3 from Luton
  - 14 from the wider area >25 miles, including Watford, Biggleswade and Cambridge
- All applicants for unskilled roles were from within 25 miles, with typical numbers of 8-10 applications per vacancy
- Applicants and potential applicants for skilled roles were typically from more than 25 miles away and numbers were normally in the range of 3-5 qualified candidates per vacancy.

Covanta/RSL has fulfilled the agreed requirements of the Local Employment Plan and continues to liaise with the Councils on these matters.