

FOI

From: PHE.
Sent: 20 December 2013 11:36
To: Chemicals.london
Subject: RE: Re: Pollution from Incineration of Municipal Waste

Hi 2

No worries.

Thanks,
3

From: Chemicals.london
Sent: 20 December 2013 11:27
To: PHE.
Subject: RE: Re: Pollution from Incineration of Municipal Waste

Hi 3

Many thanks, I hope to get response back to you today it is just being approved

Regards

2

Environmental Hazards and Emergencies Department
Centre for Radiation Chemicals and Environmental Hazards (CRCE)
Public Health England
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London SW1W 9SZ

T:
M:
dphe.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/phe

From: PHE.
Sent: 20 December 2013 11:12
To: Chemicals.london
Subject: FW: Re: Pollution from Incineration of Municipal Waste

Hi 2

Regarding the numerous emails from [redacted] - if you'd like me to send a final reply from PHE Enquiries, I'd be more than happy to do so; it may be easier to channel him down one route of correspondence.

Happy to go with whatever you prefer.

Thanks,
3



From:
Sent: 20 December 2013 10:50
To: Chemicals.london
Cc:
Subject: RE: Re: Pollution from Incineration of Municipal Waste

Dear

Thank you for confirming that the Health Protection agency are indeed looking into my two recent communications regarding pollution and the proposed incinerator in the middle of the most highly populated area of Surrey (1 mile from several primary schools) and already an Air Quality management area.

May I also now add a third communication on the subject and refer you to an article published by the bbc on Wednesday 18th December regarding major concerns that the European Commission currently have over air pollution, in particular the increased use of biomass to produce electricity.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-25431608>

EU plans air quality laws to tackle 'invisible killer'

By Matt McGrath Environment correspondent, BBC News
Air pollution in member states such as France will have to be curbed significantly to meet the proposed new standards, according to the European Commission

The European Commission has outlined plans for new air quality laws that it says will save thousands of lives every year.

The new measures aim to reduce the levels of pollutants by around 20% from current levels by 2030. The Commission says the new measures will prevent 58,000 premature deaths a year and save member states 40bn euros. But by delaying action until 2030, critics believe the EU is giving in to industry and some reluctant countries.

"Air pollution is still an 'invisible killer' and it prevents many people from living a full active life"

Janez Potocnik EU Environment Commissioner

Across the EU, more than 400,000 people died prematurely in 2010 from air pollution, according to the Commission. As well as deaths, 100 million work days are lost every year through illnesses like asthma.

Widespread benefits

As well as the impacts on health, the natural environment also suffers through excess nitrogen pollution and acid rain. The direct costs to society from air pollution, including damage to crops and buildings, amounts to 23bn euros a year.

Critics of the proposed legislation say it is a case of too little, too late. According to EU environment commissioner Janez Potocnik, the new measures being proposed will have significant benefits.

"Air pollution is still an 'invisible killer' and it prevents many people from living a full active life.

"The actions we are proposing will halve the number of premature deaths from air pollution. It's also good news for nature and fragile ecosystems."

The Commission's draft proposal outlines a new clean air programme for Europe that will put extra pressure on member states to comply with existing laws.

The main pollutants

- **Particulate matter** - fine dust emitted by road vehicles, shipping and power generation. Experts are particularly concerned about particles smaller than 2.5 micrometres
- **Sulphur dioxide** - emitted by power generation, industry and shipping. Damages health and acidifies land and water
- **Nitrogen oxides** - emitted by road vehicles, shipping and power generation. Harms health and contributes to acid rain
- **Ammonia** - emitted by livestock and through the use of fertilisers. Damages health and causes acidification
- **Volatile organic compounds** - emitted from solvents, vehicles and power generation. They are a key component of ground-level ozone

At present 17 countries are in violation of air pollution regulations and are being taken through the courts by the EU.

"We've taken member states to court before, we will continue to do that," said Commission spokesman Joe Hennon,

"It is not just a moral thing or a public health thing, it is an economic thing.

"Whatever member states might lose on increased costs, they are going to get back on reduced health budgets.

"More importantly, for citizens, you are going to have a lot fewer people who are dying or suffering all their lives with asthma," he said.

The new proposals will lower the national emissions ceilings for the six main pollutants and there will be restrictions on pollution from medium-sized combustion installations such as small-scale energy plants.

The Commission says that this measure is necessary, as the increased use of biomass to produce electricity, encouraged by climate legislation, is damaging air quality.

There will also be new emissions ceilings for methane and black carbon, both of which have short-lived impacts on climate change.

Taken together, the EU says that the laws will save 40bn euros a year, more than 12 times the estimated cost of the measures.

The increased use of wood for heating and electricity is raising concerns about the impacts on health

But critics, while welcoming many aspects of the plans, are concerned about the pace of the changes.

If they do become law, they are not likely to take effect until 2030.

"There is a real danger that if you only have a binding target by 2030, member states will leave things to last minute and then say it can't be done," said Alan Andrews, a lawyer with campaigners Client Earth.

"The EU is already lagging behind other OECD countries. If you look at the standard for PM2.5 which is the real killer, the US this year tightened their limit to 12 micrograms, ours is still 25 micrograms, with no indication that it is going to get tightened soon."

The package of measures will now face review by the European Parliament and other institutions and it could take up to three years before it becomes law.

According to Commission spokesman, Joe Hennon, the EU will need to go much further than the current proposals to meet World Health Organization (WHO) standards.

"We do need to go further, if you look at the WHO reports, those are extremely scary, particularly the last one which shows the air pollution cocktail is carcinogenic, and the standards we have in the EU are quite a bit above what we need to protect the public," he said.

End of Article.

I again re-iterate that Charlton Lane, Shepperton is the wrong location for this highly inefficient, dangerous incinerator to be located. Furthermore I am led to believe that Surrey County Council's motive for this costly scheme to be forced upon the residents of Spelthorne is to avoid paying back the millions in PFI grants from DEFRA (currently under investigation by the National Audit Office) that they wasted in failed incinerator schemes elsewhere in the County of Surrey (please see Private Eye Magazine 11th December 2013 article entitled 'Waste of energy').

Once again, I believe it would be reckless for the UK Government led by David Cameron and Nick Clegg to allow this scheme to go ahead in the borough of Spelthorne when there are much more safer and cost effective schemes available such as that recently announced by the West London Waste Authority. I firmly believe the European Commission will be very interested to hear about what is intended for Spelthorne, especially in light of the potential of a third runway at Heathrow Airport.

Regards,

----- Original Message -----

From: Chemicals.london

Sent: 12/20/13 10:00 AM

To:

Subject. re. re: Pollution from Incineration of Municipal Waste

Dear

We are currently reviewing both your queries and will respond shortly.

Kind regards

From:

Sent: 19 December 2013 18:27

To: PHE ; Chemicals.london

Subject: Fw, re: Pollution from Incineration of Municipal Waste

Dear HPA/HPE,

I have yet to receive a response to my below email dated 9th Dec 2013

Regards,

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 12/09/13 11:44 AM

To: [REDACTED] [hpa.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@hpa.org.uk)

Subject: Re: Pollution from Incineration of Municipal Waste

Dear Health Protection Agency,

Further to my email of 5th December 2013.

I refer you to the below report in todays Daily Mirror:

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/health/447529/Even-safe-levels-of-air-pollution-can-harm-your-health>

Even 'safe' levels of air pollution can harm your health

AIR pollution can kill - even at so-called "safe" levels, according to the latest research.

Scientists have found that being exposed to levels well below European air quality limits is a major health risk.

In fact, prolonged exposure to particles of soot or dust in traffic fumes or industrial emissions may be more deadly than previously thought.

Research examining 20 years of data from 360,000 city residents in 13 European countries shows an increase of five microgrammes per cubic metre in annual exposure to fine-particle air pollution raises the risk of death by natural causes seven per cent.

Lead researcher Dr Rob Beelen, of Utrecht University in the Netherlands, said: "A difference of five microgrammes per cubic metre can be found between a location at a busy urban road and at a location not influenced by traffic.

"Our findings support health impact assessments of fine particles in Europe previously based almost entirely on North American studies."

Published in *The Lancet*, the research looked at data from 22 different studies. Annual average air pollution concentrations of nitrogen oxides and particulates were linked to home addresses and exposures estimated. Traffic density on the nearest road and total traffic load on major roads within 110 yards of the home were also recorded.

A total of 29,076 people died of natural causes during a follow up period of just under 14 years.

Results showed that long-term exposure to fine particles with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres (PM2.5) posed the greatest threat - even within concentration ranges well below EU limits.

The association between prolonged exposure and premature death remained significant even after adjusting for factors such as smoking, social status, fitness, education and body-mass index. The researchers also noted PM2.5 was associated with excess mortality in men but not in women.

In a comment linked to the study, Dr Jeremy Langrish and Dr Nicholas Mills from the British Heart Foundation Centre for Cardiovascular Sciences at Edinburgh University, said: "Despite major improvements in air quality in the past 50 years, the data draw attention to the continuing effects of air pollution on health.

"These data, along with the findings from other large cohort studies, suggest that further public and environmental health policy interventions are necessary."

Speaking to the Daily Express, Dr Langrish added: "This is the first time a large European study has reported associations between air pollution and death and it has shown that at levels of air pollution that we are normally exposed to, and that are relatively low, they are still associated with increases in the risk of death."

You will be aware that Spelthorne is already in an Air quality management area, in the vicinity of Heathrow Airport, the M3 motorway and numerous gravel extraction/processing sites.

I re-assert that the UK Government allowing an un-tried un-tested Gasification/Incinerator plant to be built in such a highly residential and already polluted area is reckless and against the human rights of the residents of Spelthorne.

Regards,

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