

will need transporting away from the site every day and I am concerned that the vehicles involved in this will not be safe enough to ensure the heavy metals being transported don't leak into the local atmosphere. Emissions from the Incinerator can affect an area of up to 15 miles radius from the site. Whilst the site is in a rural area the potential problems caused by the emissions could affect up to 150,000 people. Most significantly- there is a move from Central Government and the EU to look for alternative waste disposal plans. It is expected that Private Companies and Local Authorities will come forward with plans that have the least impact on the environment. When a product is created and thrown away the best way to deal with it is through re-use. The second best way is to recycle the product and the worst ways to deal with it are to either throw it in a hole in the ground or incinerate it.

Incineration does not reclaim the whole of the energy originally used to make the product in the first place. It is a grossly inefficient way to deal with our waste problems. Not only this, but it has negative impact on the drive to reduce our carbon footprint as a nation. Account must be taken of the damage created to European and UK policies on reducing our carbon emissions. Covanta cannot use the reclamation of energy to offset this impact as an argument as the reduced confidence residents have in the system will have a much larger impact on this issue. Add to the equation the large number of vehicle journeys needed to 'feed' the sites capacity, as well as the fact that many of these journeys will be made from a considerable distance from the site (at least six counties will need to contract their waste disposal to this incinerator to make it profitable) and the site will have a considerable negative impact on the policy of carbon reduction.

**Traffic Flows & Road Safety**

On much smaller plants the traffic impact of the large trucks used to transport waste in and ash out has been considered excessive in certain areas. This Incinerator is to be much larger than most and will result in at least one lorry every minute in order to achieve capacity and efficiency within the site. The site itself is not best suited to such a significant impact on the traffic flow and the knock on effect to the village of Stewartby will dramatically reduce the current level of road safety. There will also be a major impact on the quality of life for local residents by the number of traffic movements. Controls will need to be put in place to stop the large vehicles from travelling down some of the narrower roads in the area. Whilst signs are available to deter large vehicles from accessing certain routes these cannot guarantee that drivers will desist from making such journeys and thus putting drivers and pedestrians at greater risk on these narrow roads. The use of such vehicles on these roads will also have a major impact on the lifespan of the road surface. Who will foot the bill for such damage when it is caused? Since Bedford Borough Council has declared that it will not be using incineration to dispose of its waste and it is clearly seeking alternatives that are more conducive to an environmentally aware Authority why should Bedford Borough residents have to suffer the financial cost of this traffic?

**Visual Amenity**

The images shown of the proposed development do not show the full visual impact of the site on the local countryside. This building will tower over the local landscape and will be seen for miles around. As a rural site it will have a major impact on the lives of residents for many miles, affecting several local