

Update on Viridor's proposal for an energy from waste facility and non-hazardous waste landfill at New England Quarry - 24 January 2011

On 6 January 2011 South West Devon Waste Partnership's (SWDWP) announced MVV Umwelt as the preferred bidder for the PFI contract to construct and run an energy from waste incinerator at Devonport Dockyard, Plymouth.

MVV Umwelt had been competing for the contract with Viridor, whose bid proposal was to construct and operate an incinerator and landfill at a site at New England Quarry, Plymouth.

We are continuing to determine the environmental permit application for the New England Quarry site until instructed otherwise by Viridor.

The proposal at New England Quarry is not solely dependant upon the PFI contract from SWDWP. We will determine the application based upon the information submitted by Viridor and our technical assessment of this information and that received through consultation with others. Viridor will still be required to demonstrate that their proposal meets the requirements of Best Available Technology and will also be required to meet strict environmental emission limits regardless of the waste types.

We will continue to technically assess the application and will be asking Viridor for further information as necessary. We will ensure that our assessment of Viridor's proposal is robust and takes account of the fact that there may be two incinerators in the area. However, it is our experience that in combination impacts are insignificant where the distance between the emission sources are in excess of 2 kilometres, as they would be in this instance.

The question of whether there is the need for both proposed incinerators in the area is a decision for the planning department at Devon County Council.

We met with Viridor in December 2010 and were able to talk through our concerns and those of the local community associated with the landfill component of their proposals. Following this meeting Viridor have withdrawn the landfill component of their application and are rewriting it as part of their revised environmental permit application. We expect to receive a revised landfill permit application shortly. We will consult on the revised landfill application when we have received it and ensured the application is fit for purpose (duly made).

Viridor have informed the planners at Devon County Council that the planning application will remain as it was submitted i.e. both the landfill and incinerator components are to be considered.