

EfW opposition intensifies



Cornwall: SITA UK's proposed facility for Cornwall

Groups opposed to the construction of new energy from waste plants near to west London are mobilising in the face of proposals for facilities at Chertsey in Surrey and in the South Buckinghamshire area. And, SITA Cornwall is also preparing to argue in favour of an EfW plant in the county.

Both the Surrey and Buckinghamshire plants are proposed for affluent areas and if they were to go ahead, would mean three incinerator plants in a 20 mile belt running northwards when the existing Grondon/Viridor plant at Colnbrook is included.

Surrey county council's executive approved the idea of an incinerator at Longcross near Chertsey last week in the face of opposition from the local county councillor and other critics.

Longcross will now be considered further by the council. Surrey Waste Management, a subsidiary of SITA, could be expected to operate the plant at Longcross, which would be on a site close

to the prestigious Virginia Water area of Surrey. Plans for a separate plant at Capel, Surrey could gain approval in June 2008.

In Buckinghamshire, the south of the county is one of the most well-heeled parts of the UK and residents there are now being urged to voice their opposition by organisation www.useyourbrains.org. The organisation has prepared detailed responses for the public to submit to a consultation now being carried out by Buckinghamshire county council. It argues that "there are options with a less damaging carbon footprint" and alleges concerns about cancers in children living near incinerators.

The county council has put forward sites near Beaconsfield and Gerrards Cross as potential locations as well as one near Calvert. Waste management companies Veolia Environmental Services, Waste Recycling Group and US incinerator specialist Covanta Energy Limited have been shortlisted for the work

with Veolia owning the South Buckinghamshire sites and WRG a potential site at Calvert.

In Cornwall the Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre (CERC) is proposed for a site at Rostowrack Farm, near to the village of St Dennis. This represents a key aspect of the £150 million investment PFI contractor SITA Cornwall plans to make in Cornwall's waste management infrastructure.

Cornwall county council's executive member for strategic planning and transport, Cllr Matt McTaggart, said: "We expect the proposals to generate much comment and debate, which is why it is important that the planning application is subject to a checking period to confirm whether we can register it and then progress to the public consultation period."

HEALTH & SAFETY

Veolia wins RoSPA accolades

Veolia Environmental Services has won 16 gold Occupational Health & Safety awards from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

The awards were bestowed to 16 facilities including Highmoor and Candles landfill sites and Rainham and Greenwich integrated waste facilities, David Rawlins, RoSPA awards manager, said: "Veolia Environmental Services has shown a commitment to protecting the health and well-being of its employees and others."

IN BRIEF

► **Shanks Group has reported that its overall trading in the quarter to 31 March 2008 has been strong in the majority of its European activities, with the exception of its Belgian landfill site. In the UK, the company said its trading was "in line with our expectations" with a trading profit of £2.6 million. Full preliminary results for the year ended 31 March 2008 will be published on 29 May 2008. Results were boosted by earnings in Euros from Continental contracts.**

► **Composting firm TEG Environmental is giving businesses in Lancashire and Yorkshire the opportunity to sign up to a new commercial food waste collection service. The Preston-based firm plans to mix the waste with garden waste, place it in its Silo Cage composting system and eventually create a soil enhancer.**

► **Landfill operator Norfolk Environmental Waste Services has been ordered to pay more than £17,000 for charges relating to it failing to prevent leachate escaping from one of its sites onto a nearby golf course. In a charge dating back to February 2007, the company admitted leachate management processes at its Costessy landfill site were likely to cause harm to the environment.**

► **Research undertaken by consultants Brook Lyndhurst on behalf of Defra has revealed that targeting meat could help increase participation in food waste collections. The study also discovered that food waste capture was greater in areas with food only collections than those where it was mixed with garden waste.**

► **Intercontinental Recycling has confirmed that its plastic recycling plant in the Lancashire town of Skelmersdale has successfully undergone operational trials. As a result the plant will now be able processing up to 30,000 tonnes a year of PET and HDPE plastic bottles into polymers to be used in the sheeting and packaging industries.**

WEEE

Viridor acquires Shore Recycling

Viridor Waste Management has bought one of the UK's largest refrigerator recycling firms.

The company has taken over Perth-based Shore Recycling, in a deal worth £23 million.

Viridor now takes control of Shore's operations in both Perth and Manchester, along with the St Helens WEEE plant acquired by Shore Recycling from M Baker Recycling earlier this year. The plants currently recycle 600,000 fridges, 600,000 CRTs and 40,000 tonnes of small WEEE annually.

Mike Hellings, Viridor's managing director, said: "Shore has an excellent track record in leading the way in this market in the north of the UK and is well placed to capitalise on this opportunity."