



To the Occupier

18 February 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Rookery South Resource Recovery Facility – Proposed Energy from Waste Facility and Materials Recovery Facility at Rookery South Pit near Stewartby.

We would like to Consult You

In June last year you may recall my invitation to you to attend one of six exhibitions Covanta held to explain our emerging proposals to build and operate a Resource Recovery Facility at Rookery South Pit, off Green Lane, Stewartby (the "Project").

This Project comprises an Energy from Waste (EfW) Facility and Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) that will divert 96% of the waste treated from landfill, whilst generating 65MWe of electricity and exporting enough to power approx. 82,500 homes (equivalent to the needs of Bedford and the Marston Vale). The EfW Facility will have a nominal annual waste throughput of 585,000 tonnes per year, intended to be sourced from Bedfordshire and Luton and from nearby local authority areas (depending on future contract awards). At present approximately 370,000 tonnes of residual household and business waste is generated within the Bedfordshire and Luton area, with the vast majority landfilled – the least sustainable option. Covanta treats more waste at its EfW facilities than anyone else worldwide, and sees this technology as the most cost effective, proven and environmentally sound alternative to landfill. Over 50% of the energy generated would be classified as renewable energy.

If you were one of the 500 people who attended one of last year's exhibitions or responded in some other way, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you. Since then, Covanta has taken on board many of the suggestions made, has continued discussions with numerous key advisors (such as Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough Councils) and undertaken significant work to progress the detail of the Project in light of the feedback received.

Covanta is now in a position where it wishes to share with you the more detailed (but still evolving) designs of the Project, set out the alternative options it has considered and consult upon the findings of its preliminary environmental assessment work which looks at issues such as the potential noise, traffic, air quality and visual/landscape impacts on the locality.

To this end Covanta is publishing the "Rookery South Resource Recovery Preliminary Environmental Report" which will be available for inspection at the following venues from 19 February 2010 onwards:

- Bedford Central Library, Harpur Street, Bedford, MK40 1PG
- Ampthill Library, Dunstable Street, Ampthill, MK45 2NL
- Wootton Library, Lorraine Road, Wootton, MK43 9LH
- Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Bedford, MK42 9AP
- Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford, SG17 5TQ
- Covanta (Eversholt Office) Water End Barns, Eversholt, MK17 9EA

Continuation Sheet/....

Date

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A Non-Technical Summary of the Preliminary Environmental Report has also been prepared which is available from Covanta free of charge. You can view the full report and the summary from 19 February 2010 on the Covanta Rookery South Project website at www.covantaenergy.co.uk/site/rookerysouth.

To assist you in finding out more and to encourage feedback on the proposals, Covanta is holding a further round of public exhibitions on the dates and venues noted below:

Saturday 6th March	Millbrook Village Hall	10am – 6pm
Friday 12th March	Marston Moretaine Village Hall	10am – 6pm
Saturday 13th March	Houghton Conquest Village Hall	10am – 5pm
Sunday 14th March	Parkside Hall, Ampthill	10am – 6pm
Saturday 20th March	Stewartby Village Hall	10am – 6pm

I would strongly encourage you to take this opportunity to get involved in the process and come and find out more by speaking to the technical specialists on hand to answer your questions on the Project. If you can't make these dates, please note that, with the exception of the dates given above, the exhibition will be on permanent display at the Marston Vale Forest Centre from 7 March 2010 until 4 April 2010. You can also find out more about the proposals from the Covanta Rookery South Project website.

Whether you choose to view the proposals at the exhibition, in the library, or online, please let us know what you think by:

- emailing your comments to RookerySouth@covantaenergy.co.uk
- writing to Covanta at Unit 7, Water End Barns, Water End Lane, Eversholt, Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire, MK17 9EA
- using the Freepost feedback form available to download from www.covantaenergy.co.uk/site/rookerysouth or to collect at the exhibitions

We need your views by 5 April 2010 so that they can be taken into account before we submit our application at the end of April 2010.

Covanta's application will be made to the new Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), which has been set up to consider nationally significant infrastructure projects like the Rookery South Resource Recovery Facility. More information on the IPC is available on their website: www.independent.gov.uk/infrastructure or by calling their helpline: 0303 444 5000.

To help you engage with the IPC process please be aware that Planning Aid is an initiative that provides free independent and professional advice and support for individuals and communities who cannot afford to pay planning consultants' fees. For further information visit www.planningaid.rtpi.org.uk.

Should you have any questions on the above or the Project generally, please do not hesitate to call the Covanta enquiry line on 0844 967 1101.

Yours faithfully

Malcolm Chilton

Malcolm Chilton
Managing Director
Covanta Energy UK