

APPENDIX B.2

COVANTA EfW SCOPING OPINION RESPONSE

Covanta EfW Scoping Opinion Response

Authority	Point raised in Scoping Opinion	Manner in which issue has been dealt with	Outcome
Cheshire County Council	Ecology 1. Assessment should use appropriate guidance e.g. 'Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK (IEEM 2006) 2. Justification that no further botanical studies are required. 3. Wintering Bird Survey suggested. 4. Impacts on Schedule 1 species along Sanderson's Brook should be fully evaluated. 5. Likely that great crested newt mitigation will be required. 6. S74 and BAP species should also be considered. 7. Ecological impacts on Sandbach Flashes, Union Gorse and Cledford Land Lime Beds SBI should be considered. 8. Ecological enhancement should be developed as part of ES to ensure PPS9 requirements are met. 9. Assessment should include the potential air pollution on Bagmere SSSI and Ramsar 10. Assessment should be made of the ecological significance of the ponds using UK BAP criteria	1. The Ecology chapter has been written following appropriate recent guidelines 2. Ecology chapter considers botanical baseline and flora 3. PB ecologists consulted with the County Ecologist and confirmed that only a 3 visit breeding bird survey would be required for the site. 4. Status of breeding schedule 1 species was evaluated in the appropriate surveys.. ES has taken precautionary approach and classified birds as being of district importance. 5. Survey work identified GCN found on site. Appropriate mitigation strategy has been produced as part of ES. 6. An assessment was made of the likely impacts to and necessary mitigation for Section 74 and BAP species 7. Fully considered in ES chapter 8. ES chapter considers mitigation and enhancement 9. Addressed in Ecology Chapter 10. Permanent pond within the development site identified as an important ecological feature (Regional)	1. Assessment in Section 15 of the ES. 2. Recommendation that based on the findings of the Phase 1 Survey no further botanical surveys are required 3. Recommendation has been made that the surveys be undertaken during the relevant season of 2009. 4. Impacts to birds are addressed and appropriate mitigation proposed on the precautionary principle. 5. ES addresses impacts and identifies a mitigation strategy for GCN. Area allocated for pond retention and habitat enhancement.. 6. The Ecology chapter addresses anticipated impacts to and necessary mitigation for Section 74 and BAP species 7. No significant effect predicted 8. Enhancement measures proposed. 9. No significant effect predicted 10. Pond will be retained and subject to management for ecological benefit
	Archaeology & Cultural Heritage 1. Appropriate mitigation needs to be defined once assessment is complete. 2. Likely Impacts on the Conservation Area should be discussed.	1. Mitigation measures are outlined in Section 12.7 of the ES 2. The consideration of the Conservation area is included in Section 14	1. Mitigation measures are outlined in Section 12.7 of the ES 2. The Trent and Mersey Canal has been identified in the Archaeological Section and appropriate impact assessment made.
	Environment Agency		
	CCC		

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CCC	Air Quality		
	1. Heavy metals and dioxins should be included in assessment.	1. Consideration of metals and dioxins are included in Section 9 of the ES.	1. Consideration of metals and dioxins are included in Section 9 of the ES.
	2. Consideration to be made of installation of real time air quality monitoring prior to and after operation commences.	2. To be agreed with LPA	2. Covanta would if requested monitor ground level concentrations of NOx and other pollutants during the first year of the plants operation and one year beforehand.
	3. Consultation with the Health Protection Agency should be undertaken to determine the extent of what needs to be covered with regard to health impacts.	3. Consultation with Dr Alex Stuart of the HPA was made.	3. Health Impact assessment included in Section 16 of ES.
CCC	4. The effect of the plant on greenhouse gas emissions should be included.	4. GHG emissions have been considered as part of the assessment.	4. GHG emissions included in Section 9.9 of the ES.
	Noise & Vibration		
	1. Clarify where figures in table 7.1 of the Scoping report come from.	1. Construction noise limits will be agreed with the LA.	1. The figures given in Table 10.1 have been given in the absence of any legislation that refers to such limits, and are considered a suitable starting point for such an installation.
	2. Pressure or steam release valves should be included in the assessment.	2. Pressure steam release valves have been considered in the assessment.	2. Included in section 10 of the ES.
CCC	Highways		
	1. The assessment must use the latest Department of Transport Guidance on Transport Assessment 2007.	1. The traffic assessment has been written following recent appropriate guidelines	1. Included in Traffic Section 8 of the ES.
	2. Evidence is required to support the assumption of a 50:50 tonnage split between articulated lorries and Refuse Collection Vehicles.	2. All traffic assumptions are explained and included in the TA	2. TA included in Appendix D.1
	3. Consideration of exports from the site also need to be considered.	3. Transportation of w waste materials exported from the site have been included in the assessment	3. Included in Traffic Section 8 of the ES.
	4. May be necessary to consider additional locations to collect traffic data.	4. Traffic surveys were discussed and agreed with CCC.	4. Traffic data collected from appropriate locations
	5. Traffic assessment needs to take into account committed development which should be checked with the District Council.	5. Committed development considered as part of TA.	5. TA included in Appendix D.
6. The County traffic model will require significant updating.	6. Discussions with CCC confirmed that a full traffic model for the proposed Middlewich Bypass is not required for this assessment.	7. Data produced as requested by CCC.	

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CCC	7. The assessment should consider alternative modes of transport for import and export of materials.	7. A rail feasibility study has been conducted	7. Rail feasibility study included in Appendix D.2
	8. A planning application will need to be supported by a separate transport assessment that is in accordance with the DfT guidance.	8. A separate TA has been produced and is included in Appendix D.1 of the ES	8. TA included in Appendix D.1
CCC	9. HA would welcome an early discussion on the TA and also advises that reference is made to Circular 02/2007	9. A meeting with the HA was conducted with Barry Holt in January 2008.	9. HA considerations included in TA
	10. The council will need to be satisfied that an accurate traffic model is used to identify the potential impacts of additional traffic on air, noise and vibration and that it will take into account changes consequent upon the construction of the Middlewich Eastern Bypass.	10. Sections 10 Noise and 9 Air consider the impacts of increased traffic levels associated with the proposed development.	10. Included in Sections 9 and 10 of the ES.
Natural England	Landscape		
	1. The proposed development needs to be assessed both in the context of existing and proposed development and in the context of the wider Cheshire countryside which Midpoint 18 is extending into.	1. The landscape and visual chapter considers the impact of the development on the landscape character of the wider countryside and includes illustrative viewpoints from rural locations to the north, east and south.	1. Included in Landscape Section 11 of the ES
	2. Consideration of alternative sites, or consideration given to reducing the size of the development and that opportunities for offsite planting to help soften the visual impact are sought.	2. Justification for the proposed site is included within Section 5 Alternatives of the ES and within the SPS. A planting scheme has been considered and outlined in the Landscape Section	2. Included in Landscape Section 11 of the ES
	3. Landscape assessment should include an assessment of any plume from the stack, together with the weather conditions in which it is likely to be present as this would greatly increase visibility	3. The assessment considers the potential visual impact of the stack and plume.	3. Included in Landscape Section 11 of the ES
	4. A soil management plan is recommended with any future planning application	4. This has been addressed as part of Section 14 Hydrology, geology and soils.	4. Included in Section 14 of the ES
	5. Recommends that landscape character assessment is based on the existing Congleton LCA for clarity.	5. The landscape character assessment refers to both the national Joint Character Initiative and the Congleton LCA	5. Included in Landscape Section 11 of the ES
Environment Agency	Flood Risk Assessment		
	1. FRA required in accordance with PPS 25 as outlined in scoping response dated 15 Nov 2007	1. FRA produced after consultation with the EA	1. FRA included in Appendix H.1 of the Environmental Statement
	2. PPC Permit would be required	2. EP Application currently being prepared	2. EP application to be submitted Early 2009