

SEVERNSIDE NEWS

www.severnside-consultation.co.uk

Update on proposals to develop a new energy recovery centre at Severnside

NOVEMBER 2009

Severnside ERC project update

Proposals being developed for a new energy recovery centre (ERC) at Severnside, by recycling and waste management company SITA UK, are progressing well following a series of public exhibitions that took place over the summer.

Over 150 people attended the events, with many taking the opportunity to talk directly with members of SITA UK's planning team and ask specific questions.

It was especially heartening to hear widespread recognition for the need to identify alternatives to landfill, and a significant number of people attending the events expressed strong support for our proposals - backing both the chosen site and technology.



THE SEVERNSIDE ERC HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE TO, RATHER THAN DISTRACT FROM, ITS LOCAL SURROUNDINGS

While most people were broadly supportive of the proposed development, the consultation process has enabled SITA UK to identify several issues of local interest, particularly traffic, building design, and emissions associated with the ERC.

All the feedback received has been thoroughly reviewed and, where possible, constructive comments, along with advice and input from organisations including the Environment and Highways Agencies, have been taken on board to help shape the final planning application.

Go to p.2 for SITA UK's responses to some of the questions asked over the course of the public exhibitions.

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Proposals at a glance

The proposed ERC at Severnside would:

- Process up to 400,000 tonnes of non-recycled commercial and industrial waste per year
- Generate up to 32 megawatts of electricity – enough to power around 50,000 homes per year
- Regenerate an eight hectare brownfield site previously used as a fuel storage depot adjacent to Seabank Power Station and the former Terra Nitrogen Works
- Have unrestricted access to an existing railhead which, subject to improvements, could be used as an alternative mode of transport to and from the site
- Create the opportunity to supply neighbouring commercial and industrial operations with recycled heat generated by the ERC

Go to p.3 for an overview of the proposed design for the Severnside ERC

Contact us

SITA UK is committed to making sure local people are kept informed every step of the way throughout the planning process. If you have any questions or comments, or would like to feed back on the proposals for the Severnside ERC, please contact us on:

Hotline: **0845 543 2123** Email: **severnside-consultation@sita.co.uk**

For further information go to: **www.severnside-consultation.co.uk**





Your questions answered

Gareth Phillips, Planning and Property Manager at SITA UK, responds to some of the questions frequently asked at the consultation events in July.

Won't the facility just lead to an increase in traffic putting further strain on local roads?

A key feature of the Severnside site is its access to good transport links. This enables operational and construction traffic to use the motorway and trunk road network when accessing the site. The site also includes an existing railhead to which we have unrestricted access. The presence of this railhead was a major factor influencing our decision to develop the site, as reconnecting it to the existing Severn Beach line would allow us to use rail as an alternative to road transport.

How will you stop HGV drivers taking short cuts through narrow village roads?

The only SITA UK lorries we would expect you to see in local villages would be those you already see making collections of waste and recycling.

It is our intention that lorries would use trunk roads to access the site. We would also put in place a strict code of conduct setting out the routes that HGV's must use and the times during which deliveries can be made to prevent drivers taking short cuts through villages. Similar policies have been successfully implemented at other SITA UK sites where any driver found to have been in breach of conditions risks disciplinary action.

Will the Severnside ERC be safe?

Modern ERCs use technologies that ensure waste is burned extremely efficiently, and emissions are strictly monitored and controlled. The facility would operate under an Environmental Permit dictating the performance level it must achieve before the plant could even commence operation.

Once operational, emissions associated with the facility would be tightly regulated to meet stringent requirements set out by the European Union Waste Incineration Directive that are far more rigorous than those for fossil fuel based power generation. The stack (chimney) would also be required to comply with Environment Agency legislation dictating that it was of adequate height to ensure that emissions have no discernable impact on air quality at ground level.

How will SITA UK reduce the impact of odour associated with the Severnside ERC?

The entire energy recovery process will take place in a totally enclosed environment – a factor which itself limits odour issues. Waste arriving to site will be unloaded into a waste reception hall where it is stored and mixed for even burning in the furnace. Air from the tipping hall will be drawn into the waste furnaces as combustion air. This will create a slight negative pressure in the reception hall preventing odours, dust and litter escaping the building.

Driving Severnside sustainability

SITA UK is committed to working alongside organisations focused on improving the ecological and environmental sustainability of the Severnside area. This saw SITA UK Director Stuart Hayward-Higham address a 150 strong audience at the annual Severn Estuary Partnership forum in September.

Giving a presentation on 'No More Waste' – SITA UK's vision for a society where all waste has value as a resource – Stuart used the opportunity to reinforce the company's commitment to working together with the Partnership and support its effort to promote sustainable environmental and economic growth in the Severn Estuary area.



Planning considerations

SITA UK's team of specialist consultants has undertaken a detailed evaluation of the potential impact the proposed Severnside ERC development could have on the local community and environment. Studies that have been undertaken to inform and shape the final planning application include:

Air quality

Our aim is to reduce emissions associated with the facility to below limits set by European Directives. Gases from burnt waste will pass through several stages of treatment – ensuring that emissions released through the stack are very low. As required by the Environment Agency, we have used sophisticated computer models to predict how different weather conditions, local topography, neighbouring buildings and activities will affect the movement of emissions from the stack. This has enabled us to predict the impact on air quality in areas where people live, as well as the Severn Estuary, and help identify a suitable stack height that balances the appearance and environmental impact of the facility.

Transport

A comprehensive Transport Assessment examining how the development will affect traffic on roads and junctions surrounding the site has been used to shape a transport strategy that will be put in place to minimise the impact of the development on local roads.

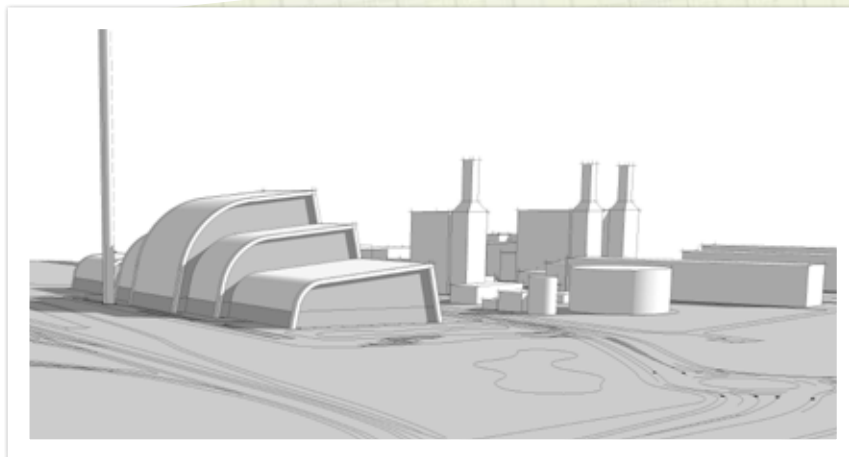
As well as reinstating the existing rail head, we intend that HGV traffic accessing the proposed facility would principally use trunk roads to access the site. We have also looked at the design and delivery of a new roundabout junction with the A403 to improve site access. A Travel Plan will also be prepared to promote sustainable modes of travel for staff - i.e. on foot, by cycle, by public transport.

Employment

A particular area of discussion at the July public exhibition concerned the creation of future employment relating to the proposed Severnside ERC. In the event of planning permission being granted for the facility, we estimate that we would generate:

- At least 46 full time jobs involved in the operation, management and administration of the ERC
- Around 200 construction jobs during the two and a half year construction period

Our aim, as always, would be to work closely with the local community to encourage applications for jobs created by the facility.



Design and visual impact

Feedback from the public exhibition revealed that very few people considered the look of the development to be an issue. Whilst there was some debate about whether a modern or more conventional industrial design would be most appropriate, consensus was that the facility should be designed to reflect the industrial buildings already present in the area.

The Severnside ERC has therefore been designed to comprise of curved sections so it

contributes to, rather than distracts from, its local surroundings. Supporting this, the wider site will be landscaped to create an attractive setting for the building, its users and neighbours - protecting as far as possible the existing habitat, ecology and vegetation whilst also providing new landscape elements that will increase the long-term biodiversity of the area.



Public consultation – next steps...

At the time of going to press SITA UK anticipates submitting the final planning application for the Severnside ERC to South Gloucestershire Council by the end of November 2009. Once the council has registered the application it will undertake a formal consultation process of its own, during which time members of the public and organisations including the Environment, Highways and Health Protection Agencies will be invited to feed back comments on the plans. The council's planning committee will take all relevant feedback into account when making its decision on the application sometime in 2010.



SITA UK's commitment to public consultation

Public consultation and community engagement play an important role in the planning and development process. SITA UK recognises the valuable contribution local people can make and is therefore committed to working in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council and members of the public throughout the planning process to ensure the views of local people are taken into consideration.

SEVERNSIDE ERC
CONSULTATION (JULY 2009)
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A full Statement of Community Engagement (SCE) setting out how, when and where SITA UK consulted with local people in developing the proposals for the Severnside ERC will be included with the final planning application. The SCE also provides a full analysis of all the feedback received and demonstrates how it has helped shape the final planning application. **A copy of the SCE will be available to view at www.severnside-consultation.co.uk once the application is registered.**

Public exhibition

To give you the opportunity to find out about the planning application in more detail and contribute to the consultation process that South Gloucestershire Council will undertake, SITA UK is inviting local residents and members of the wider community to attend a public exhibition providing an overview of the final proposals for the Severnside ERC.

The public exhibition will take place on:

Tuesday 08 December 4.30-8.30pm

Avonmouth Community Centre,
257 Avonmouth Road, Bristol BS11 9EN

Thursday 10 December 4.30-8.30pm

Hallen Village Hall and Recreation Centre,
Moorhouse Lane, Hallen BS10 7RU

Friday 11 December 4.30-8.30pm

Severn Beach Village Hall, Ableton Lane,
Severn Beach, South Gloucestershire BS35 4PP

Copies of all the materials produced for the exhibition will also be available to download from www.severnside-consultation.co.uk

If you would like SITA UK to advise you directly once South Gloucestershire Council has registered the planning application for the proposed Severnside ERC development, please contact us using one of the methods detailed below:

Hotline: **0845 543 2123**

Email: **severnside-consultation@sita.co.uk**

