

# CHAIN

## Cheshire Anti Incinerator Network



News Release

12 October 2013

### Northwich Incinerator Con?

The news about the partial closedown of chemical production by TATA in Northwich and the sad loss of 220 jobs does not come as a surprise to CHAIN. We forecast this in papers submitted to the Public Inquiry into the waste incinerator application in 2011 and TATA did not deny it or meet our challenge to offer job security to its Northwich employees if it obtained planning permission. Our belief continues to be that construction of an incinerator will enable TATA to make a profitable exit from chemical production in the UK and supply the market from its facilities overseas particularly in the US and Kenya where it has invested millions of dollars in the recent past.

CHAIN has also discovered that TATA's partner in developing the incinerator, EON, has quietly changed the basis of the development for which it was granted planning permission. It now evidently intends to build a conventional waste burning electricity generating station in Northwich and has abandoned the claim that it would provide energy in the form of steam and heat to the chemical factory next door. This is an astonishing revelation because it totally undermines the basis on which the Government granted planning permission for the construction of a combined heat and power (CHP) plant or the 'Sustainable Energy Plant' (SEP) plant as TATA/EON called it.

Brian Cartwright, CHAIN Chairman, commented :

*"We have every sympathy with the people who are to lose their employment, of course. It now appears that the authorities and the people of Northwich are the victims of a confidence trick and we are calling on the Government to act while there is still time. We take this view because the plant which TATA/EON still say they intend to build would be very different from the one described in their planning application and the one they spent weeks talking about in the Public Inquiry eventually convincing the Planning Inspector to give them the go ahead. We have already made contact with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to bring their attention to the disturbing news and have requested the Environment Agency not to proceed to issue an environmental permit until the situation is rectified. We are also asking Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council to take appropriate action. The support of all of these bodies is needed to protect our community from these two huge foreign business corporations who seem determined to get their way."*