

CHAIN

Cheshire Anti Incinerator Network



NEWS RELEASE

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Northwich Incinerator. New Health Warnings Discovered!

Several weeks ago CHAIN discovered a letter written in February 2011 by the Central and Eastern Cheshire NHS Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the Health Protection Agency (HPA) to the Government about health aspects of the proposed TATA waste incinerator. This letter had not been disclosed to the public. It contained six recommendations covering health monitoring, the need for more research on 'multiple sites' (where incinerators are located close to each other as could be the case in Cheshire) and the need to engage the community about their fears of incinerators. Very significantly, it also urged, for health reasons, that a limit be placed on the amount of road traffic that TATA want to use in transporting materials to and from the incinerator.

Following a complaint from CHAIN, TATA were requested by the Government appointed Planning Inspector to explain in writing what they had done to implement the recommendations. Their response is overwhelming in its arrogance and contempt for the welfare of the local community and for the expert medical opinions of the PCT and the HPA. It goes through the recommendations and seeks to undermine or reject every one. TATA could not be more clear, for instance, that they have no intention of accepting the recommended limit on the number of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) on local roads.

CHAIN and others were asked to give their comments on TATA's response. All were appalled at TATA's audacity and apparent indifference to the wellbeing of people in this area. They also made the reasonable request that the Public Inquiry, which is due to commence on 11 October, be postponed until the implications of the newly discovered recommendations are fully assessed. The results of that exercise could then be communicated to the community in public meetings and similar forums where people can be given proper explanations of the risks involved, ask questions and receive answers from those whom they can trust. The people of Northwich are surely entitled to that.

In CHAIN's opinion; what is going on has the makings of an absolute scandal. Local people have been expressing their concerns for years about the prospect of building a large waste incinerator in what is, in fact, a residential area not far from the centre of Northwich. It cannot be right that TATA's evident desperation to get on with building its toxic monster should be given priority over risks to the health of generations for decades to come.

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