



**ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY**

Mr J Beresford
C/O 93 Boxley Drive
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7GN

Our ref: BP 250
Your ref: ER/FB05/0086
Date: 25 August 2005

Dear Mr Beresford

UNAUTHORISED EMISSIONS BREACHES FROM EASTCROFT INCINERATOR

I refer to your letter of 15 August regarding the above.

You are right to say that Eastcroft incinerator has breached its permit conditions on a number of occasions this year. However, with the exception of the dioxin breach on 10 March the breaches have been minor. The incinerator is in compliance with its limits for over 99.9% of its operating hours and none of the breaches would have caused any adverse health effects.

The dioxin result of 0.9ng/m³ on 10 March was of great concern to us because it was 9 times the permitted limit of 0.1ng/m³. This was the first dioxin breach in six years and was preceded by a result of 0.0058ng/m³ in December 2004 and followed by a result of 0.08ng/m³ in June 2005. Once we had been notified of the breach we began an investigation into the potential health impacts. The worst case scenario is that the dioxin value of 0.9ng/m³ occurred for a six-month period from December 2004 to June 2005. The main pathway for human exposure to dioxins from incinerators is by deposition in areas used for growing food and the subsequent consumption of that food. We concluded that the dioxin breach would have a negligible effect on human health.

Following the breach, Waste Recycling Group began an immediate investigation. They have reported that operations at the time of the breach were normal and no other monitored pollutants exceeded the permitted limits. We are awaiting their final report. We have issued them with a formal written warning and we made arrangements for a dioxin re-test at the company's expense. The re-test results have just been received and they were well below the limit of 0.1ng/m³.

I can assure you that we have a record of strong regulation at Eastcroft incinerator under the current permit and that we will continue to regulate the site to ensure that it is compliant in the future.

Yours sincerely

Mark Sitton-Kent
Area Manager - Lower Trent

Trentside Offices, Scamngton Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5FA.
Customer services line: 08708 506 506
Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.environment-agency.gov.uk