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29 August 2005

Mark Sitton-Kent
Area Manager - Lower Trent
Environment Agency
Scarrington Road
West Bridgford
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Dear Mr Sitton-Kent,

Unauthorised emissions breaches from Eastcroft Incinerator

Thank you for your response to my letter regarding Eastcroft incinerators emission breaches.

You suggest that 'the incinerator is in compliance with its operating limits for over 99.9% of its operating hours' and that 'none of the breaches would have caused adverse health effects'

Firstly we do not agree that the plant has complied for 99.9% of its operating hours. The only compliant dioxin results either side of the breach of 10 March 2005, were December 2004 and June 2005. Therefore you can only assume the worst case scenario, as you suggest that the plant breached its limits between these dates. Therefore you cannot prove that the incinerator complied for the six-month period in-between compliant results, so the figure of 99.9% is vastly exaggerated. Nevertheless, the fact remains that the plant has breached its operating licence significantly with a serious dioxin breach. If a member of the public were to break the law, even if only for a moment we would expect them to face prosecution, regardless of the period for which the law was broken!

Secondly, you suggest that the dioxin breach of nine times the authorised amount for up to six months 'would have a negligible effect on human health'. Could you please confirm firstly your definition of and quantify 'negligible effect' and secondly what evidence you have and what investigations have been carried out to back up your claim.

In view of the lack of guarantees that the plant will comply with its operating licence and therefore pose a serious threat to human health and the environment, we repeat our call for you to use your powers to protect the public from this highly polluting plant and issue a prohibition notice, until Waste Recycling Group can clearly demonstrate that they can and will operate within their licence all of the time and not just during certain periods!

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Beresford MIE