

Binn Farm Newsletter, 31 August 2007

Scottish Ministers Approve Incinerator

Dear Campaigner,

I got a letter this morning from Iain McLeod of the Planning Decisions Division of the Scottish Executive. He says:

"..after careful consideration of all the relevant issues, including your own views and that of all other parties who made representations, Scottish Ministers decided not to issue a direction restricting the grant of planning permission or to require the Council to refer the application to them for determination. A letter to that effect was issued on 28 August which also indicated that the Council were authorised to deal with the application in the matter it thinks fit."

This is very worrying. I have written to John Swinney (see [letter](#)) and other MSPs for Mid-Scotland and Fife expressing my concern.

The next thing we need to do is keep an eagle eye open for the application by Sita for a polluter's licence, from which time there will be 28 days to make comments at the SEPA office in Perth. After around 4-6 months SEPA will issue a 'Draft Determination' with key points, which will be viewable on the internet for 28 days. After that a permit will be issued.

There isn't much chance that SEPA will turn down the application, given that one of their top people was on Newsnight Scotland only a week or two ago saying there were no health or environmental issues with modern incinerators. However, they may be open to persuasion on the grounds that the Binn Farm incinerator will be very inefficient - a point which SEPA itself raised last year when the application was first made. SEPA stated that the incinerator would only be 22% efficient because all the low-grade secondary heat would just go up the chimney. By contrast, if it was built at the Shore Road site in Perth (for which planning permission already exists), it would be at least 60% efficient because the low-grade heat could be used to heat surrounding buildings. This would be more in line with the National Waste Strategy which requires "maximising resource efficiency and value recovery from wastes that are produced."

All the best,

Michael