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MSW

Mr Ian Sleith  
Head of Development Standards  
Perth & Kinross Council  
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- 8 FEB 2007

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6<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Dear Sir

For your reference and to keep you abreast of how things are developing, please find attached a recent letter sent to Tom McCabe Minister for Finance and Public Service Reform on behalf of 5 Community Councils.

Yours faithfully



Ann Sangster

Signed on behalf of the following: -  
Abernethy & District Community Council (Perth & Kinross)  
Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council (Fife)  
Earn Community Council (Perth & Kinross)  
Glenfarg Community Council (Perth & Kinross)  
Newburgh Community Council (Fife)

Mr Tom McCabe  
Minister for Finance and Public Service Reform  
St Andrews House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

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6<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Dear Sir,

### **Siting of Proposed Incinerator Plant at Binn Farm Glenfarg**

Five Community Councils representing some 8000 plus constituents located south of Perth have come together due to their concern over the siting of the above waste incinerator plant and I write to you on their behalf.

Their concern covers many aspects of this proposal, central to which is the adverse environmental impact it will have due to the obnoxious gases and particulate emissions, some of which could be carcinogenic, from the high level 70 metre chimney.

There is ample evidence, arising from the activities at the existing landfill site, that obnoxious gases from the landfill and composting activities do constitute an unacceptable environmental condition (odours) and possible health risks on the surrounding villages.

Abernethy, in particular, has suffered from these effects for several years despite many complaints and calls for action to SEPA to identify unacceptable odours. No real action has been taken by the authorities, until very recently, to investigate these problems.

It should be noted that the Binn Farm is situated at 200 metres above sea level and that anything emitted there from is bound to find its way downwards to one settlement or another in the area.

Data / research covering background and cumulative emissions, non-standard conditions of operation and impact on neighbouring communities and land users has yet to be presented in relation to this application by SITA.UK.

A study of the topographical and weather conditions such as thermal and low cloud effects prevalent in these hills clearly indicates that a funnelling and concentration of exhaust gases and particulates discharged from the site can be expected. This is illustrated by the problem of obnoxious odours produced by the present landfill site and composting operations presently encountered by residents of surrounding villages. Such effects will **not** be eliminated by the concentrated discharges from a 70 metre high chimney.

Our investigations into previous and existing waste incinerator plants in UK, Europe and USA give credence to our concern for public safety and environmental damage in respect of the location of this proposed plant. These investigations have clearly indicated the need for strict adherence to existing regulations, both of the EU and UK, concerning such plants and to careful selection and segregation of the type of waste material to be incinerated. This is necessary to avoid dangerous emissions from the incineration process. We understand such dangerous emissions have been encountered in, and led to the closure of, previous waste incineration plants in Scotland. These industrial plants require regular inspection of operation, maintenance and emissions, by experts. Here again our concern is the present apparent inability of SEPA to carry out such duties.

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We are aware of the Scottish Executive's ongoing survey in Scotland to locate suitable sites for waste incineration plant and we identify with and support the need for alternate methods of waste treatment as opposed to landfill.

Lack of proper consultation on this application, supported by an incomplete Environment Statement, opens up the possibility of any final decision issued being legally flawed and open to legal challenge.

It is essential that the sites for such industrial installations are carefully selected to ensure dispersal of emission gases and particulates over a very wide area in order to mitigate any environmental damage and health risks not only to the human residents but also to all other living animals and plants.

We therefore ask you to refuse approval of this proposal for a Waste Incineration Plant at Binn Farm, Glenfarg.

Signed on behalf of the following: -

Abernethy & District Community Council (Perth & Kinross)  
Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council (Fife)  
Earn Community Council (Perth & Kinross)  
Glenfarg Community Council (Perth & Kinross)  
Newburgh Community Council (Fife)

cc to: -

Ross Finnie MSP, Minister for Environment & Rural Development.  
Iain Smith MSP.  
Councillor Andrew Arbuckle MSP.  
Roseanna Cunningham MSP.  
Gordon Banks MP.  
Menzies Campbell MP.  
Mr Iain McLeod, Scottish Executive, Planning Division.  
Councillor Donald Lothian – Fife Council.  
Councillor Ewen Jardine – Fife Council.  
Ronnie Hinds – Chief Executive, Fife Council.  
Keith Winter – Fife Council 'Development Services'.  
Councillor Kathleen Baird – Perth & Kinross Council.  
Councillor Alan Jack - Perth & Kinross Council.  
Bernadette Malone - Chief Executive, Perth & Kinross Council.  
Ian Sleith – Head of Development Standards, Perth & Kinross Council.  
Brian Healey, SEPA – Head of Environment Protection and Improvement, South East Region.  
Communitiy Councils.