

Community Newsletter

May 2009

Dear Resident

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Current Operations

As you will know, the East Northants Resource Management Facility (RMF), formerly called the King's Cliffe landfill site, is currently permitted by the Environment Agency to accept hazardous waste. These are wastes that are not suitable for most landfill sites and require a greater degree of environmental protection when disposed of. Hazardous wastes in many cases are very familiar items from our homes and offices such as televisions, computers, fluorescent tubes and paints or varnishes.

Additional Authorisation

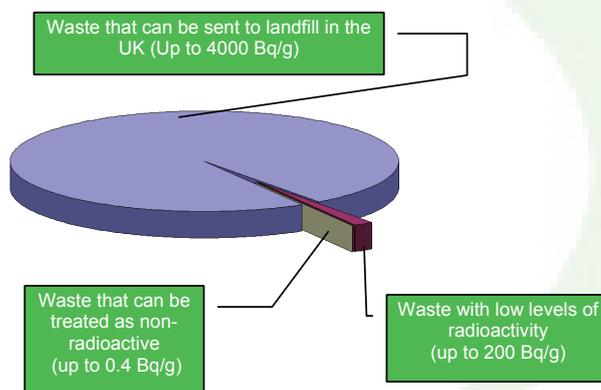
Augean is intending to seek planning permission from Northamptonshire County Council and authorisation from the Environment Agency to allow the disposal of wastes such as soils and construction materials which arise from the decommissioning of nuclear power stations, science and research facilities, hospitals and manufacturing. These wastes have small amounts of low level radioactivity, which means that they must be sent to specially authorised and approved landfill sites.

The total amount of waste that will be deposited in the landfill is unchanged by the proposal and there will be no increase in the number of vehicle movements to and from the site.

The Nature of the Waste

Most of this waste, normally demolition rubble and soils, has only very small amounts of radioactivity and can be handled in simple containers without special precautions.

The radioactive content of materials is measured in Becquerels per gram (Bq/g). To be suitable for disposal in landfill, such material has a typical radioactive content below 4000 Bq/g. The waste intended for East Northants RMF will only measure between 0.4 and 200 Bq/g – the bottom five per cent of the range of this type of waste currently sent to landfill in the UK.



The disposal of waste containing any level of radioactivity is very tightly controlled, as are the radiation exposures that a person may receive. The radiation exposures to all persons, both workers and members of the public, from these proposals will be kept below a small fraction of the legal limits and will be much less than the average exposure of a person to naturally occurring radiation in the UK.

Augean has carefully considered these proposals and would not be putting them forward unless we were certain that they do no harm to our employees, the general public or the environment. We will also have to satisfy the requirements of Northamptonshire County Council and the Environment Agency before being given their planning consent and authorisation.

Why East Northants RMF?

Nationally there is need for disposal capacity to enable the decommissioning of the current nuclear power industry and other sources of this type of waste such as hospitals. Consequently the waste is accumulating on the sites where it originates.

The Government is keen that this situation is addressed and has published policy to encourage the use of high standard landfill sites, to help positively address our national legacy from the power enjoyed from the UK's former nuclear sites. East Northants RMF, as a hazardous landfill site, is considered highly suitable to accept this waste because of the high level of environmental protection in the engineering of the site. Also, our staff are already experienced in dealing with hazardous waste, which in practice is more difficult to manage than waste with low levels of radioactivity.

Public Consultation

We realise that many of the issues surrounding radiation, such as the science and terminology, can be worrying, complex and confusing to some. As part of our commitment to maintaining the good relationship Augean enjoys with the local community, we will be conducting comprehensive public consultation with all interested parties, before applying for authorisation and planning permission, and to take into account any views expressed to us. We are prepared to answer any questions you may have as comprehensively as we can so that the local community is fully briefed on our proposals.



Invitation to a Public Exhibition

We will be holding a public exhibition at King's Cliffe Memorial Hall, Eagle Lane, King's Cliffe PE8 6XB, on Thursday, 21 May 2009, between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. This will allow us to explain in full what we are proposing and will also give you an opportunity to ask questions and talk through any concerns with members of Augean staff and also representatives of the Environment Agency and the Health Protection Agency, who will be in attendance throughout each exhibition.

In the meantime, should you have any questions for the Augean team, please contact:

Dr Gene Wilson
East Northants RMF
Stamford Road
King's Cliffe
PE8 6XX

Tel: 0870 041 6452 or
Helpline: 01904 629210
