

CLG Meeting of 17th September, 2025

Summary of discussion

1) Devonport Facility visit

One attendee stated that there were no odours or concerns. One attendee had concerns about bottom ash, fly ash and odour.

Bottom ash is what falls off the end of the grate after the waste has burnt out; this is regularly tested in accordance with Environment Agency requirements. It is non-hazardous and sent off site for processing. Metals are recovered for recycling and the rest is graded by size and sold as secondary aggregate.

Fly ash is the smaller particles that rise up from the fire and are carried through the flue gas path with the hot exhaust gases. This, along with the by products of flue gas cleaning, is collected on the filter bags before the chimney. Together these components are called Air Pollution Control residues (APCr) and are a hazardous waste; this is because they contain small amounts of heavy metals and alkali salts from neutralising the acid in the flue gases. They are shaken off the filters and stored in sealed silos for collection by sealed tankers, which transport them to hazardous landfill.

The environmental permit for the Medworth Facility includes pre-commencement conditions, some of which are also Requirements of the Order. An odour management plan will be produced and approved in advance of starting operations; it will be reviewed by specialists and MVV will be monitored against it.

The air quality assessment undertaken for planning details the many factors that were considered and the impact to health looked at the very worst case scenario of a person living, working and eating on land near to (and/or within range of the dispersion modelling) the facility; including eating only produce and animals grown/bred and grazed on that land. This would give absolute maximum exposure and assessments conclude no adverse effects. The Environment Agency have a specialist unit that checks our modelling and data.

As part of the Examination process, additional monitoring has been detailed (and now installed) in a Local Air Quality Monitoring Strategy – this is available to download from our website: [Consultation and planning document downloads](#) and includes a continuous monitor installed at the Thomas Clarkson Academy.

Questions from the floor

2) How can you monitor air quality now when there is no incinerator?

It is important to establish a baseline for monitoring against. The same thing was done in Plymouth and quarterly reports are available on MVV's website: [Links and Downloads - MVV Energie AG](#)

3) What if pollution increases?

Emission limits are set and continuously monitored at the chimney. The Environment Agency regulate this and have access to chimney emission data; they have the power to stop a facility from operating if it is unable to do so safely.

4) Are there any other facilities close to schools?	Yes. The monitoring equipment was placed at Thomas Clarkson Academy to reassure parents and the school, as well as to provide learning opportunities for the staff and students.
5) Have you spoken to the parents?	MVV held consultation events and the application was thoroughly examined by the Planning Inspectorate. The consultation report is the single largest document in our planning library. A visual map of the consultation zones is included for ease of reference.
6) Is the risk to health greater for people living closer to the facility? A local landowner wishes to establish housing for the homeless on the Potty Plants land.	The situation is no different to that outlined above – health impacts were thoroughly assessed. Zurich and Frankfurt have EfW facilities in their city centres and MVV's Devonport facility is 60-70m away from the closest housing. Potty Plants is closer to the A47 than the Medworth Facility.
7) Are there any legal implications for trying to house homeless people and can MVV help in any way?	The community fund will be managed by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and may be able to support with funding. Setting up a charity to give back to the community and tackle ASB would be a good way forward. <i>[PC and AH provided separate advice after the meeting.]</i>
8) What information goes to which councils when you are satisfying the Requirements?	The Order Requirements are discharged by the Relevant Planning Authority; in this case, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk County Councils. They consult with statutory bodies, which include Fenland District Council.
9) Some information has become public that you own the land but don't want to buy the area that you will use as a temporary construction compound.	MVV have an option to lease the main site, which is privately owned. Some of FDC's land is also required and MVV would prefer to lease this. An offer has been made to FDC to lease the operational area for 40 years and the temporary construction compound area for five years. All of this land is included in the red line boundary so the Development Consent Order gives MVV compulsory powers if an agreement can't be reached. A temporary possession order was issued to allow the necessary vegetation clearance; the next step will be to start the General Vesting process but MVV will continue to try and negotiate at the same time.
10) Can you clarify if you have spoken to FDC direct or only an agent?	We have a land agent, as do FDC, who deal with such negotiations.
11) How many waste contracts do you have already?	Approximately 10, but the volume of waste is more important than the number of contracts and we have about 60% of the capacity.
12) Where is the waste coming from?	The Development Consent Order determines the catchment area and waste customers will need to bring waste from within that area. Small 'man and van' loads won't be accepted as we want to minimise the number of vehicles driving to and from the site. Cambridgeshire County Council are currently using the Waterbeach site and Norfolk are currently using the Bedfordshire one – so that waste is travelling along the local roads and past where MVV's site will be. Local Authority waste contracts are subject to a public tender process and MVV will bid.
The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 19th November 2025 at the Oasis Centre	