



Public Health  
England

Environmental Hazards and  
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[www.gov.uk/phe](http://www.gov.uk/phe)

Our Ref: CIRIS 57942

Your Ref: WP/20/00692/DCC

Adrian Lynham  
Planning and Community Services  
Dorset Council  
County Hall  
Colliton Park  
Dorchester  
DT1 1XJ

[by email]

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

Dear Adrian,

### **Planning Application for: Portland Port, Castletown, Portland, DT5 1PP**

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) (known previously as Public Health England) has reviewed research undertaken to examine the suggested links between emissions from municipal waste incinerators and effects on health (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/municipal-waste-incinerators-emissions-impact-on-health>). UKHSA's risk assessment is that modern, well run and regulated municipal waste incinerators are not a significant risk to public health. While it is not possible to rule out adverse health effects from these incinerators completely, any potential effect for people living close by is likely to be very small. This view is based on detailed assessments of the effects of air pollutants on health and on the fact that these incinerators make only a very small contribution to local concentrations of air pollutants.

We have previously provided comments (21<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021) to the planning application for this installation, in relation to activities for the development of an advanced energy recovery facility (ERF) with ancillary buildings and works. We have also provided a response to the environmental permit application in relation to this installation (13<sup>th</sup> August 2021) where we made some specific recommendations which are also applicable to this planning application.

Bearing in mind our previous recommendations and standard expectations for a planning application, we request that Dorset Council takes account of the following when considering approving the application:

- Provision of further information on the quantity, testing regime and usage of the backup generators should be provided to demonstrate that emissions will not be a significant risk to public health.

- To ensure that the air quality modelling used is suitable and appropriate inputs are used for all receptors and accurately reflects the local topography to provide reliable estimates of reasonable worst-case scenarios
- That the recommended HHRAP model for comparison of most pollutants (including metals) and dioxins is used and an assessment against the tolerable daily intake (TDI) or dioxins, furans and other considered metals for the oral pathway at the worst-case receptors is conducted

Reducing public exposures to non-threshold pollutants (such as particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide) below air quality standards has potential public health benefits. We support approaches which minimise or mitigate public exposure to non-threshold air pollutants, address inequalities (in exposure), and maximise co-benefits (such as physical exercise) and encourage their consideration during the design, environmental and health impact assessment, implementation, and post-implementation monitoring stages.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Cheek  
Environmental Public Health Scientist

cc  
Public Health England South West, Health Protection Team  
Dorset Council, Public Health Team