

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 13 January 2025

Question from: Andrew Dobson

Question to:

Your reply to my question at the last Cabinet regarding the draft permit published for Calder Valley Ship Hire said if emission levels are exceeded for a period of more than 4 hours, on notification of such, council officers will ensure that the incineration of waste ceases until the matter is resolved, describing this as being dealt with swiftly.

During such periods of 'Permissible periods of abnormal operation' the defined limits of safe operation are by definition exceeded, with potentially all the raw emissions from incineration being released directly to air via the emergency dump valve with no form of pollution abatement occurring.

Given the release point of these emissions is 22 centimetres below the road level of Rochdale Road only 90 metres away does the Cabinet believe that all raw emissions from incineration being released directly to air for a period of four hours before notification is required acceptable or dealing with environmental pollution swiftly.

Response

The air quality modelling undertaken by RPS and reviewed by both Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants and Bureau Veritas confirmed the stack height as acceptable.

Regarding the periods of abnormal operation, it is anticipated that the additional flue, which is separate from the main stack, will only be used as an emergency vent via a pressure release valve, and its primary purpose is to safely release pressure during abnormal operating conditions such as unexpected pressure surges. The permissible four-hour period of abnormal operation is defined within legislation which Officers cannot change. The SWIP itself is not pressurised, and combustion irregularities are monitored. If a pollution incident was to occur, CVSH Ltd are required to notify the Council straightaway, to which the Council will respond appropriately.