



NEWSLETTER

Issue no 1

IS VEOLIA SAFE TO RUN A WASTE PLANT?

On July 2nd 2007 there was a major fire where 62000 litres of a highly flammable waste liquid somehow caught fire. This closed the M6 motorway, as a large toxic cloud was emitted as a result. Local residents were told to remain in their homes and to keep their doors and windows shut. Bearing in mind that this site is a waste processing plant, which deals with waste, how is it that Veolia who run the plant are not exercising strict SAFETY CONTROLS to prevent this sort of incident?

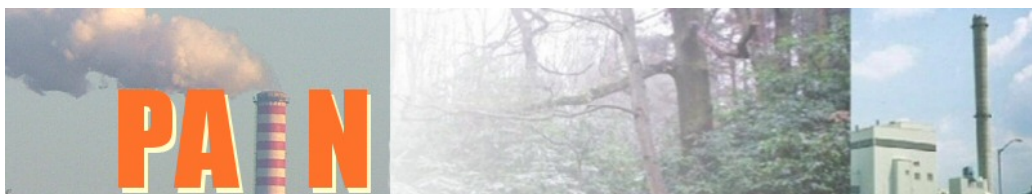
So much for safety improvement notices handed out by the Environment Agency. If it can happen there, then it could happen at RAINWORTH. One asks the question are VEOLIA fit to run such enterprises with such a poor respect for safety?

NO INCINERATOR - NO VEOLIA - NO PROBLEM

Veolia have many convictions for breaches in safety all over the world. To try and hide this, the company changes its name. They use:- **Onyx, Vivendi, Leigh Environmental, Norwest Holst Construction Ltd.**

The cases

- a. The environment Agency's own web site records how on 24th June 2003 Onyx pleaded guilty at Telford Magistrates Court to one charge of failing to take reasonable measures to prevent the escape of waste under its control and one charge of keeping waste in a manner likely to cause pollution. The company was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay court costs of £13,500.
- b. Onyx and their parent company Veolia (formerly known as Vivendi), are associated with corruption. Corruption In mid-1996, five out of 13 directors on the main board of Vivendi / Generale des Eaux were under investigation for corruption...In Milan, Italy, 2001: Alain Maetz, a senior manager in Vivendi's water division was convicted for bribery and received a prison sentence of one year and ten months with a conditional discharge. Judges said Mr. Maetz had paid a bribe to the president of the Milan city council during the bidding procedure for the contract for a wastewater treatment plant in the south of Milan. Massimo De Carolis, the then former city council president received an almost three year sentence for receiving the US\$2 million bribe. The contract was worth US\$100 million.
- c. Vivendi subsidiary, waste management company Leigh Environmental (now called SARP UK) were fined £87,500 with seven prosecutions for pollution in 2000. In 1999, Leigh Environmental was also in the UK's Environment Agency's worst ten polluters' list, with fines of £18,000 and three prosecutions. In May 1998, a cloud of nitric-dioxide gas leaked from SARP UK's Killamarsh chemical wastage plant in north Derbyshire. Residents in three separate counties were affected and more than 20,000 people were forced indoors as the 300-foot plume of thick orange gas spread over the area. The Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency investigated the incident and SARP UK was prosecuted and fined a total of £270,000.
- d. Rockland, Massachusetts terminated Veolia's contract to run the town's sewer plant in February 2004, amid embezzlement charges involving a sewer department official and a local company executive. The men were charged with embezzling more than US\$300,000 from the Rockland Sewer Department. The termination came on the heels of a forensic audit that suggested the bidding process by which Veolia was selected to run the plant was rigged, as well as an investigation by the Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General into whether the original bidding process was rigged in Veolia's favor.



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- e. In Lee, Massachusetts town representatives voted overwhelmingly in September 2004 to reject a proposal from Veolia to take control of the public water and wastewater system. The proposed contract offered by Veolia offered little assurances, the contract was riddled with holes and omissions. The city would have been saddled with any number of costs, ranging from excavation to testing to administrative tasks. The company reserved for itself the right to set rates for treatment of "trucked-in waste from outside of town". The contract allowed the town only "limited" access to documents relating to system operations. And the entire proposal lacked a credible cost estimate against which savings promised by Veolia could be measured, calling rather for an "audit and asset valuation" only after the contract had been signed.
- f. Onyx are currently being sued in the US by the Sierra Club in relation to air pollution from their waste incinerator in the St Louis area. For details see <http://www.sierraclub.org/environmentallaw/lawsuits/viewCase.asp?id=256>
- g. Vivendi's subsidiary Tyseley Waste Disposal Ltd. was listed by the UK's Environment Agency as the second worst polluter in 1998. Environment Agency director of operations, Archie Robertson said, "The companies included in our Hall of Shame have let down the public, the environment and their own industry".
- h. Vivendi subsidiary Norwest Holst Construction Ltd. was prosecuted and fined £50,000 with costs of over £20,000 after an employee died from injuries received when he struck an underground electric cable with a pneumatic drill in September 1998. The court found that site rules were not being enforced, despite the fact that this was high-risk work. No edge protection had been provided and the risk assessment for the work was inadequate.
- i. Onyx UK Ltd. was prosecuted and fined £14,500 after contractors were exposed to asbestos during its removal from a property in October 1999. The contractors were not licensed for asbestos removal and inadequate precautions were taken. The risk was described as "significant." Onyx was also prosecuted and fined £3,600 after an employee fell 2.5 meters and fractured his skull and collarbone in October 1998.
- j. Vivendi subsidiary Ringway Highway Services Ltd. was prosecuted and fined £50,000 after an employee had his leg amputated after being run over by a chippings spreader in January 1999. It was ruled that Onyx had insufficiently safe reversing systems.

After this, would you be happy for Veolia to be allowed to run any potentially dangerous facility near you?

AGAIN ON HEALTH

We have all been led to believe that Bottom Ash (not fly ash) is inert and not dangerous. (Bottom ash is the larger residue caused by burning waste. This is referred to as IBA (inert bottom ash)) Well it has now come to light that this is not true by a long way.

PAIN has been doing some research and has found that this certainly is not the case. It is clear that about 12% of bottom ash samples tested were hazardous. Perhaps more interesting is the fact that they come from a wider range of incinerators so there is a strong argument that each batch should be tested – or all the ash classified as hazardous waste.

The relevant incinerators are:

- Wolverhampton
- SELCHP
- Edmonton
- Coventry
- Kirklees
- Billingham
- Dudley

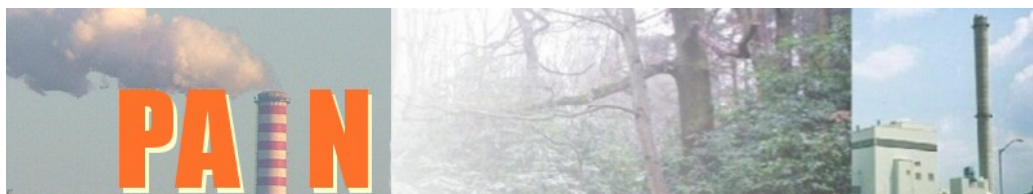
It is clear that the Environment Agency is allowing the operators to landfill the hazardous ash in non-hazardous landfill sites. We say this can't be lawful. It is also being taxed as 'inactive' for the Landfill Tax, thus not having to incur the much higher dues. It is also currently taxed as '**inactive**' for the Landfill Tax, **thus avoiding higher taxes**. We expect this status to change in the near future, and this could lead to even higher costs passed on to Nottinghamshire residents.

Information

The next meeting for the group will be at 7.45pm Thursday 16th August 2007, Rainworth Village Hall

FOR SALE: Car Stickers £2.60 Bin Stickers £12.00 Prices inc P&P

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