

Newhurst Energy Recovery Facility

Thursday 18th August 2022

Dear Liaison Committee Member.

Commencement of Commissioning Activities.

With construction of the new state-of-the-art Newhurst Energy Recovery Facility now at an advanced stage, Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI), the Principal Contractor, has started the process of commissioning and testing the new facility, which is the final step before the plant becomes fully operational. A team of experienced commissioning engineers will undertake this important phase which is also required by the Environment Agency (EA) under the terms of the project's Environmental Permit.

Commissioning a new energy recovery facility involves carrying out a number of well-planned activities, in a tried and tested sequence. All of the individual plant systems will be prepared and tested before being put into operational use. Once all of the individual systems have been commissioned, the plant as a whole will undergo a number of tests to prove its operational, and in particular its safety and environmental performance. Commissioning activities have now started and the whole process should be completed in the first half of 2023.

Some of the steps involved in commissioning are likely to result in activities which could be seen or heard by the local community outside of our site boundary. The nature of commissioning is that it is a one-off phase of the project. It is important to note that many of the things that you may see or hear during commissioning are not typical of the normal operation conditions of the facility.

Boiler Boil-out

One of the early steps in the commissioning phase will be to warm-up and dry-out the boiler using oil burners. This may result in a plume of water vapour being visible from the main chimney stack. As the boilers warm up, the binding agent in the insulation, which wraps around the boilers to improve efficiency, evaporates in high temperatures. This binder is made from a non-hazardous substance of organic plant material (a key component of which is glucose) that produces a distinct odour. There is potential for odours to be detected outside the boundary of our site, but this is unlikely. It is important to note that these odours are not harmful to people or the environment, and should only be for the short-term.

This activity is expected to take place week commencing Monday 22nd August 2022 and last for around a week.

Steam Blowing

Another step will involve a process called “steam blowing”. This process uses pressurised steam, produced by the heat in the boiler, to clean the inside of the boiler tubes and pipework. During this time, residents living closest to the site may hear a noise similar to rushing air. A silencer is fitted to minimise the noise as much as possible. A plume of water vapour will be visible as the steam condenses in the cooler air outside the facility. Each steam blow will last approximately 30 minutes and there will be around 2 steam blows per day. No steam blowing will be undertaken outside normal working hours.

This activity is expected to take place throughout September 2022.

No residual waste (this is waste that remains after recycling and composting has taken place) is scheduled to be delivered to the facility before 23rd September 2022, since the above activities will be carried out using oil burners only. Prior to the commencement of the waste deliveries, the necessary systems for the proper receipt, handling and management of the waste will also be commissioned, along with the systems for collecting and transporting combustion and treatment residues safely away from the site.

The Environment Agency are fully aware of our plans and the control measures put in place to minimise local impacts during this important phase of the project.

If you have any comments or questions in relation to these forthcoming activities, please contact us via the Contact Us pages at info.covanta.com/newhurst or by email using the contact details below.

Yours sincerely

Craig

[Craig Burdis](#)

Project Manager

Newhurst ERF

Covanta Energy Limited

Email: cburdis@covanta.com