

Update on construction of EnviRecover

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Commissioning of the facility continues apace. With all the control systems in place, the first wastes were received on 16^{th} September, and first firing of the grate with waste took place 5^{th} October.

Overall, the main facility has performed well and the commissioning programme is on schedule. There has been some delay in commissioning the turbine and the first generation of electricity. The delay has meant that we have had to by-pass the turbine with steam from the boiler going directly into the air cooled condensers. This by-pass activity has created an unexpected level of noise, which has given rise to a number of complaints from nearby residents – directed to the company and also to the Environment Agency. We apologise for this event. This additional noise should not be an issue once the turbine is commissioned and the facility is in normal operations. In the meantime, the contractor has provided some temporary lagging around the offending pipework, and is presently constructing a more permanent solution that will be needed in the future on the odd occasions when the turbine is off-line but the main facility is still running.

With the facility now being tested, bottom ash is being taken off site, as planned, to the company's Hill & Moor landfill site. The air pollution control residues (APCr) have been taken to the hazardous waste landfill site at Wingmoor near Cheltenham for analysis and disposal. Early analytical results have characterised the APCr as being potentially suitable for treatment and recycling. Loads are now being sent to a specialist treatment site at Avonmouth for proving trials.

Activities continue on completing the administration block and the external works – roadways, car parking, fencing, and landscaping. The external works (now running into the hours of darkness) require temporary lighting on the western side of the boiler house. The levels of lighting, direction of arc lights and some reflected 'flare' off the main boiler house has given rise to some complaints. As a consequence, the contractor has undertaken audits, and amendments to the temporary lighting have been put in hand which has been found to reduce the illumination and flare from the building.

The numbers working on site have continued to decline, with around 150 people now engaged. Some of the construction cabins have been demobilised and removed.

Site control, operations and health and safety continue to be maintained to a high standard.

If you have any queries, please address them to envirecover@severnwaste.co.uk