

TALGARTH TOWN COUNCIL

Mrs Josephine M E Rumsey, Town Clerk

Tel: 01874 711565
Mobile: 07970 547996
Road
E-mail: josephine@kite35.freemove.co.uk

"Ty-Carreg"
Bronllys

Talgarth
Brecon
Powys LD3 0HH

26 February 2009

Mr John Cook
Acting Chief Executive
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Cambrian Way
Brecon
LD3 7HP

Dear Mr Cook

07/01356/ FUL Gt Porthamel, Talgarth. Bio-gas Plant

Urgent Request for Data.

Enclosed is a spreadsheet of collated data from the above file, FOI material and news publications, which speaks for itself.

Starting in 2007 it shows how the application and its plan has materially changed through to the PAROW presentation on 30 September 2008 and then more recently a report by WELTEC on 30 January 2009.

Understandably we are very alarmed by our findings which, show the plant to have increased in terms of through puts, in-puts, out-puts, capacities etc by 5 fold or more. In September 2008 the plan appeared to be a sustainable agricultural digester plant, but now it is a fully fledged commercialised industrial bio-gas plant. The public file seems to reveal that the statutory consultees were not informed or consulted of these increases or changes.

We should be grateful if you would confirm our figures as being correct and supply us with the missing data indicated by question marks. In the short term could you please complete and give priority to the following date rows: -

- **26-Sep-07 / 18-Jul-08 / 30-Sep-08/ 30-Jan-09.**

In addition please clarify: -

- The farm's exact acreage and usage in terms of stock use and digestate spread. The file figures are inconsistent and range from 392 – 1000 acres.
- There seem to be no plan drawings or correspondence that address the Animal Health Agency and the National Enforcing Regulations in terms of isolating the farm and other properties from the biogas plant by separate entrances and secured boundaries to avoid any chance of contamination. (ref late information -PAROW30/09/08)

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- Apparently there will be significant quantities of water and effluents being released from this plant. Welsh Water does not seem to have been consulted at any point? Presumably these effluents will have to find their way into the already overloaded sewage system and/or the river Llynfi. Have Welsh Water been consulted?
- Have the Environment Agency been advised about the expansion of this plant, especially the change in increased tonnage of many different types of waste to be imported, exported and processed?
- There are inconsistencies with the output figures for both electricity and digestates :
What is the expected amount of MWs p/a ?
Will this electricity supply local homes ?
What will happen to the excess digestate?

I hope you understand our concerns. We would very much appreciate your answers before the **10th March 2009 PAROW** meeting. In addition could you please arrange for two of our councillors to meet with your planning officer (s) to explain the completed data and clarify any queries that may arise from your/our findings?

We look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely

Josephine Rumsey

Mrs Josephine M E Rumsey
Town Clerk

Cc Mrs R. Edwards, Solicitor to Brecon Beacons National Park Authority