

# ABENA OPPONG-ASARE MP

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR ERITH AND THAMESMEAD

PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE SHADOW CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

23 April 2020

To whom it may concern

As Member of Parliament for Erith and Thamesmead I am writing to voice my opposition to the permit request by Cory Environmental Holdings Limited for a second incinerator to be built in Belvedere.

## **Air quality and emissions**

European environmental directives outline that a single facility cannot exceed 200 mg/Nm<sup>3</sup> of Nitrous Oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions per day. The existing Cory facility in Belvedere emits 170 mg/Nm<sup>3</sup> per day with the proposed new Riverside Energy Park set to emit 120 mg/Nm<sup>3</sup> over 24hrs. Under current directives this is considered acceptable because the two facilities are evaluated on their individual output. However, the reality is that the geographical area will be producing a combined daily NO<sub>x</sub> output of 290 mg/Nm<sup>3</sup> which is above the approved maximum.

According to research carried out by UK Without Incineration Network, in 2018, Cory's current EfW incinerator produced the second highest level of 'harmful particulate matter' and 'harmful nitrous oxide' emissions in the country throughout 2017.

Poor air quality has been identified as the largest environmental risk to public health in the United Kingdom. Allowing this incinerator to be built would be at the risk of environmental damage and public health.

## **Potential impact on the site land and habitats**

The Cory Riverside Energy Park (incinerator) is next to the Crossness Nature Reserve, part of the Erith Marshes Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation.

The Friends of Crossness Nature Reserve we have found that emissions are not the only cause for concern. Water runoff from the additional hardstanding areas will affect salinity levels of ditches in nearby nature reserves, which in turn could lead to the extinction of Skylark and Ringed Plover as breeding species within Bexley. All London Boroughs are required to have an up-to-date Biodiversity Action Plan, and it has been argued by environmental groups that

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the approval of the Riverside Energy Park compromises the success and effectiveness of these plans across Bexley.

Adequate assurance that the second incinerator will not have detrimental and lasting impacts on the surrounding environment, climate and public health, has not been received by myself or my constituents. I therefore oppose this application and hope the information provided gives sufficient explanation for this reason.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abena', is placed on a light yellow rectangular background.

Abena Oppong-Asare MP