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Our Ref: S3694-0420-0009

6 February 2023

To whom it may concern,

Subject: Environmental Permit (EP) application for the Thornton Energy Recovery Centre (Ref: EPR/GP3447QU/A001)

On behalf of Sesona Hill House Ltd (Sesona), please find enclosed an application pack to support the application for an EP for the Thornton Energy Recovery Centre (the 'Facility').

The EP application pack includes the following documents/files:

1. Application forms;
2. Modelling files;
3. Non-technical Summary;
4. Supporting Information including;
 - a. Appendix A – Plans and Drawings;
 - b. Appendix B – Site Condition Report;
 - c. Appendix C – Noise Assessment;
 - d. Appendix D – Environmental Risk Assessment;
 - e. Appendix E – Air Quality Assessments;
 - f. Appendix F – BAT Assessment;
 - g. Appendix G – CHP Assessment;
 - h. Appendix H – Fire Prevention Plan; and
 - i. Appendix I – Planning Application.

The application fee has been paid by electronic transfer, with remittance details provided in Form F1.

A pre-application meeting was held with the Environment Agency (EA) on 4 October 2022. During the pre-application meeting, it was requested (given the EA's existing work queues) whether the application would be prioritised for determination. At the meeting it was advised that a request for prioritisation should be submitted with the EP application, and the EA would be able to take this into consideration when allocating resources to determine it.

Taking this into consideration, Sesona requests that allocation of the EP application is prioritised for the following reasons:

1. A planning application for the Facility was submitted to Lancashire County Council on 25 January 2023. In accordance with EA Guidance titled '*Guidance for developments requiring planning permission and environmental permits*', Sesona is submitting the EP and planning applications at the same time to enable 'parallel tracking' of the application as recommended by the EA in its Guidance.
2. The Facility will provide new energy infrastructure in the UK – Sesona believes that the Facility will contribute to resolving the current energy crisis, by providing a source of low carbon electricity and heat, and will contribute to the UK's target for Net Zero by 2035.
3. Sesona understands that, following the failure of Lancashire County Council's (LCC) waste contracts for processing municipal waste in local mechanical biological treatment (MBT) facilities, LCC disposes of a significant proportion of its waste in landfill. Accordingly, Sesona believes that the provision of alternative waste recovery facilities, such as the Facility, will help to reduce LCC's reliance on disposal and will enable municipal waste arisings in Lancashire to be processed in a recovery facility, rather than disposed of in landfill.
4. The Facility is located on land at the Hillhouse Business Park. The site is allocated for large scale built waste management facilities under Policy WM2 of the Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan and also identified for a "*Proposed Energy Recovery Centre*" within the Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone Masterplan, which is controlled under Policy SA4 of the Wyre Council Local Plan. Accordingly, as a proposal which accords with the Development Plan, there is a realistic expectation that the planning process will not be prolonged and hence the Environmental Permit will be the critical path process.

Taking the above into consideration, it is requested that the EA prioritise the allocation of the EP application to a permitting officer for determination to enable it to be parallel tracked in accordance with EA Guidance.

We trust that the information provided in this letter is acceptable. If you have any questions, please contact either of the undersigned.

Yours sincerely

FICHTNER Consulting Engineers Limited



Katie Hampton
Environmental Consultant



James Sturman
Lead Consultant