

SITA UK

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Construction of the Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre

6/2/15

Dear Local Resident,

As you may know, earlier this week we paused construction of the stack (chimney) at the Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre as some swaying had been experienced.

Temporary bracing was installed on the evening of Monday 2 February to stabilise the structure and while there has been some (expected) movement of the flues in the wind since then we are assured that the structure is safe.

We recognised that it was important to have a full investigation into the matter. Along with our main contractor, VINCI Environment UK, this reflects our commitment to ensuring the safety of local people and the construction workers on site.

To summarise the findings of the investigation:

- The swaying of the stack(s) is not caused by high wind speeds but occurs only at low wind speeds that match the natural frequency of the stack (a phenomenon known as vortex shedding).
- There has been no permanent damage to the stacks or their foundations.
- A temporary connection was successfully made between the stacks to minimise the oscillations.
- The connection is a temporary one, it is now important to proceed with the final erection of the stacks to secure them in the safest way intended.

The top sections of the stack include the stabilisers (oscillations dampers) to mitigate the effect of wind speeds. Therefore, when the top sections are installed, along with the platform which provides permanent bracing, we will have a fully stable configuration.

An inspector from the Health & Safety Executive attended site on Thursday 5 February at around 10.30pm, in response to concerns raised by residents. We provided him with a great deal of information and he was happy that the contractors had managed the immediate risk at the time of the incident and he was satisfied with the procedures to be put in place for the final erection.

Once all of the necessary documentation has been signed off, subject to prevailing and anticipated weather conditions the final sequence will begin. We expect this to be over the weekend of 7/8 February.

Please be assured that there will be a presence on site 24 hours, any undue movements in the stacks will be reported to the relevant persons.

Yours faithfully,

Mike Dobson, Regional Communications Manager, SITA UK.