



CCATO

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

13
3 October 1984

Dear Nick,

RE-CHEM HAZARDOUS WASTE INCINERATION PLANTS

As you are aware, Re-Chem International Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of the British Electric Traction Group) operate three plants for the high-temperature incineration of hazardous wastes at Roughmute, Pontypool and Fawley, near Southampton. You will have seen the announcement, dated 17 September last, of the company's intention to close their Roughmute plant.

The implications of the closure of Roughmute are serious for industrial hazardous waste producers in Northern England and Scotland, faced with several hundreds of miles additional haulage in order to achieve secure disposal, and I understand that concern has already been expressed to Scottish Office in this vein.

Equally serious, of course, are the implications with respect to the Pontypool plant, which would have to cope with an increased amount of lorry traffic, greater throughput and, inevitably, a new wave of hostile public and media pressure.

Officials in my Department are not convinced of BET's resolve to maintain the Pontypool operation in the face of such hostility, and fear an announcement of its closure within a matter of months.

I view this possibility with the gravest concern. The availability of a high-temperature incineration capability for solid hazardous wastes is essential to the national strategy for waste management, and of the five contractual hazardous waste incineration plants in the UK, only Roughmute and Pontypool offer this particular facility. They will incinerate 14,000 tonnes of UK hazardous waste between them in 1984, for the vast majority of which no environmentally acceptable alternative disposal option exists.

I should be grateful, therefore, if we, together with George Younger, could arrange to meet and discuss the implications of this topic, as a matter of urgency. I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and to Norman Tebbit.

Yours
Patrick

PATRICK JENKIN

1983 OCT 1984

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WBSM
TV

copy
1508E

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

3 October 1984

Dear George,

RE-CHEM WASTE INCINERATION PLANTS

As you are aware, Re-Chem International Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of the British Electric Traction Group) operate three plants for the high-temperature incineration of hazardous wastes at Roughmote in Scotland, Pontypool in Wales and Fawley near Southampton.

Following the company's announcement on 17 September last of their intention to close the Roughmote plant I know that you will share my concern at the implications which this course of action could have on industrial hazardous waste producers in Scotland and Northern England. Even if other plants survive, these producers will be faced with additional haulage of several hundreds of miles to achieve secure disposal for their wastes. I know that Scottish Office have already received comment in this vein from local industries.

The implications are also serious for the Pontypool plant, which would be faced with increased lorry traffic, increased throughput, and inevitably a renewed wave of hostile public and media pressure. My officials are not convinced of BET's resolve to maintain the Pontypool operation in the face of such pressure, and fear an announcement of closure within months.

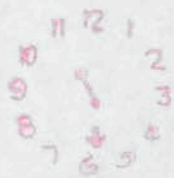
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I should be grateful, therefore, if we, together with Nicholas Edwards, could arrange to meet and discuss the implications of this topic as a matter of urgency. I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and to Norman Tebbit.

Yours
Patrick

PATRICK JENKIN

3 OCT 1984





NBSM
BT 26/10

CCO

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GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
01-233 6106 (Llinell Union)
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WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switchboard)
01-233 6106 (Direct Line)
From The Secretary of State for Wales

26 October 1984

De P. Jenkin

RECHEM HAZARDOUS WASTE INCINERATION PLANTS

Thank you for your letter of 3 October about the operation of the Company's three plants for the high temperature incineration of hazardous wastes and the implications of the closure of the Roughmote plant, and suggesting an urgent meeting.

In my absence abroad your Private Office was advised that Wyn Roberts would attend any such meeting for which we agreed that there was a need.

Like George, we are gathering data on the materials being dealt with at Pontypool and perhaps it would be right for us all to get together when this information is to hand.

/ I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, George Younger and Norman Tebbit.

Jenkin

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP
Secretary of State for the Environment

Govt Mach November 8

Hazardous Waste

26 OCT 1984

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SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 3EB

cc No
Nepm
Dmb
22/10
22nd October 1984

Dear Patrick,

RE-CHEM WASTE INCINERATION PLANT

Thank you for your letter of 3 October proposing that you, Nicholas Edwards and I should meet as a matter of urgency to discuss the implications of the closure of the Roughmote Plant of Re-Chem International at Bonnybridge.

I agree that we should meet but I think that it would be advisable for the ground to be prepared first.

A preliminary assessment by my officials makes it clear that there will be problems from the closure - albeit of varying difficulty - for the Scottish industry. This is only a first sighting shot and we expect to get from the local district council, which is the waste disposal authority for the area, within the next two weeks a detailed list of all the materials dealt with by Re-Chem (Bonnybridge) over the last year, showing the producers of the wastes and the tonnages involved. With this information we will be in a better position to assess not only the implications for industry in Scotland, but the likely pressures on other disposal facilities.

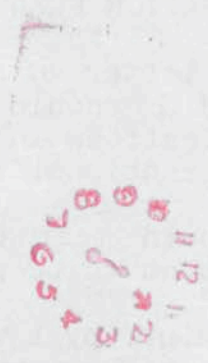
Another argument against precipitate action is that we have had reports that the industries most concerned in Scotland are already discussing among themselves what action they can take, and I would not wish anything done by us to stifle that initiative.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Nicholas Edwards and Norman Tebbit.

Yours truly,

George

Geert Mach : Location of Hazardous Waste Inspectorate
11/82



22 OCT 1984

[Faint handwritten text, possibly a signature or name]