

**Rookery South Energy Recovery Facility**  
**COMMENCEMENT OF COMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES**

8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam / Householder

With construction of the new state-of-the-art Rookery South Energy Recovery Facility now at an advanced stage, Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI), as Principal Contractor, are beginning the process of commissioning and testing the new facility, which is the final step before the plant becomes fully operational. A team of experienced commissioning engineers will undertake this important phase which is also required by the Environment Agency (EA) under the terms of the project's Environmental Permit.

Commissioning a new energy recovery facility involves carrying out a number of well planned activities, in a tried and tested sequence. All of the individual plant systems will be prepared and tested before being put into operational use. Once all of the individual systems have been commissioned, the plant as a whole will undergo a number of tests to prove its operational, and in particular its safety and environmental performance. Commissioning activities have now started and the whole process should be completed in 2021.

Some of the steps involved in commissioning are likely to result in activities which could be seen or heard by the local community outside of our site boundary. The nature of commissioning is that it is a one-off phase of the project. It is important to note that many of the things that you may see or hear during commissioning are not typical of the normal operation conditions of the facility.

One of the early steps in commissioning phase will be to warm-up and dry-out the boilers using oil burners. This may result in a plume of water vapour being visible from the main chimney stack. This activity is expected to take place throughout **April and May 2021**.

Another step will involve a process called "steam blowing". This process uses pressurised steam, produced by the heat in the boiler, to clean the inside of the boiler tubes and pipework. During this time, residents living closest to the site may hear a noise similar to rushing air. A silencer is fitted to minimise the noise as much as possible. A plume of water vapour will be visible as the steam condenses in the cooler air outside the facility. This activity is expected to take place throughout **April and May 2021**.

No residual waste (*this is waste that remains after recycling and composting has taken place*) is scheduled to be delivered to the facility before late **Spring / early Summer 2021**, since the above activities will be carried out using oil burners only. Prior to the commencement of the waste deliveries, the necessary systems for the proper receipt, handling and management of the waste will also be commissioned, along with the systems for collecting and transporting combustion and treatment residues safely away from the site.

The Environment Agency are fully aware of our plans and the control measures put in place to minimise risks and local impacts during this important phase of the project.

If you have any comments or questions in relation to these forthcoming activities, please contact us via the Contact Us pages at [www.rookerysouth.co.uk/contact-us](http://www.rookerysouth.co.uk/contact-us) or by calling the HZI Site Manager (Chris Barbour) on 07950 387 124.



Yours sincerely,

*Jack Stitt*

**Jack Stitt**  
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