

BIOMASS POWER GENERATION PLANT, BRIDGETOWN - EMISSIONS

4858. Hon Robyn McSweeney to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

I refer to the proposed Biomass Power Generation Plant at Bridgetown, and I ask -

- (1) Will the emissions from the plant which plans to use 380 000 tons of plantation waste, with a combination of 40 percent eucalyptus globulos (bluegum) and 60 percent pinus radiata (pine), be likely to put toxins into the air?
- (2) If yes to (1), what are the toxins that are burning these trees through a proven and efficient combustion system and latest emissions control technology, would be likely to produce?
- (3) What is the proven and efficient combustion system that this plant will use?
- (4) What is the latest emission control technology that this plant will use?
- (5) Where is another plant located around the world that uses the same technology as this plant intends to use?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

- (1)-(2) The proponent's draft Environmental Protection Statement (EPS) for the project indicates that potential emissions include nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, sulphur dioxide, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, lead, dioxin and furans and other trace elements.
- (3) The proposal described in the draft EPS is a conventional steam cycle plant.
- (4) The proponent has proposed a multi-cyclone and electrostatic precipitator to control particulate emissions, and overfires air-enhancing combustion to reduce nitrogen oxides emissions. The Environmental Protection Authority will consider the adequacy of these control measures during its assessment of the proposal, and in formulating its advice and recommendations to the Minister for the Environment on whether the project should be allowed to proceed.
- (5) The Environmental Protection Authority has asked the proponent to provide information about the application of this combination of technologies in equivalent plants is being sought from the proponent.