
From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
Sent: 03 July 2024 12:16
To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories:

Application Reference No. : SMD/2024/0055 Site Address: LAND SOUTH OF CELLARHEAD SUBSTATION AND WEST OF Rownall Road Wetley Rocks Staffordshire Comments by: Ian Podmore Private Rownall Freehold resident
From:

Submission: Objection
Comments: WITHOUT PREJUDICE

It seems water doesn't quench these fires it merely accelerates a highly volatile chemical reaction which then requires sand to smother the flames!

The provision of 2 water silos each containing 760,000 litres with sprinklers over each battery containers, as features now in application SMD/2024/0055 would seem to be completely inappropriate and wholly inadequate. I draw the Council's attention to the BBC article below referencing the most recent Battery Storage fire in S Korea earlier this month (June 2024) in which 22 people were killed and took days to extinguish using sand not water!

What does it take to protect Moorlands residents? We the closest residents, are not interested in the Council's procedural compliance nor their legal position, merely our interest in continuing to live safely and enjoy the amenities assured within our, previously protected Green Belt! The Council must stop consenting these highly dangerous Battery Storage major sized sites so close to rural homes. There is now a critical need to acknowledge the deathly consequences of these horrific explosive fires and the Council now must surely exercise their 'duty of care' before there is the mother of all catastrophes on our 'doorstep'.

'Tessa Wong and Flora Drury

Role, BBC News

24 June 2024

A massive factory fire that began after several lithium batteries exploded has killed at least 22 people in South Korea.

The blaze broke out on Monday morning at the Aricell plant in Hwaseong city, about 45km (28 miles) south of the capital Seoul.

Local television footage showed large smoke clouds and small explosions going off as firefighters sought to put out the fire. A part of the roof had collapsed.

South Korea is a leading producer of lithium batteries, which are used in many items from electric vehicles to laptops.

Fire official Kim Jin-young said 18 Chinese, one Laotian and two South Korean workers had been confirmed as among the dead. A final body had yet to be identified, and there are fears at least one more person may be missing.

"Most of the bodies are badly burned so it will take some time to identify each one," Mr Kim said, according to news agency AFP.

A further eight people were injured - two seriously - out of the 100 who had been working when the fire broke out.

The Aricell factory housed an estimated 35,000 battery cells on its second floor, where the batteries were inspected and packaged, with more stored elsewhere.

Mr Kim said the fire began when a series of battery cells exploded, though it remains unclear what triggered the initial explosions.

He explained it was difficult to enter the site initially "due to fears of additional explosions".

It is not yet clear what started the blaze. Lithium batteries are at risk of exploding if they are damaged or overheated.

Whatever the cause, once the fire took hold, it would have spread at speed - giving the workers little time to escape, according to Kim Jae-ho, fire and disaster prevention professor at Daejeon University.

"Battery materials such as nickel are easily flammable," he told Reuters news agency. "So often, there is not enough time to respond, compared to a fire caused by other materials."

As a lithium fire can react intensely with water, firefighters had to use dry sand to extinguish the blaze, which took several hours to get under control.

However, there is still a risk that after the fire is extinguished, it could reignite without warning due to the chemical reaction.

Sincerely Ian Podmore

