

POULTRY LITTER-FIRED POWER STATION, EPA ASSESSMENT

1282. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

I refer the Minister to the assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority on the 'Poultry Litter Fired Power Station' and ask -

- (a) which parts and recommendations of the Environmental Protection Authority's Report are being appealed; and
- (b) when will the appeal be considered?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

- (a) Issues raised in appeals include the following: the proposal should be referred to the Waste Management Board; availability of alternative treatment methods (eg composting, anaerobic liquidising) which would have greater environmental benefit and may make poultry litter unavailable to the proponent; the proposal would result in the destruction of organic matter that has been useful in horticulture and the chicken litter is now being used for agricultural and other uses in areas where the poultry litter ban does not apply; the stable fly problem no longer exists and the justification for the proposal is redundant; concerns about emissions including limits and controls; World Health Organisation information quoted in the EPA Report; adequacy of monitoring requirements; the Health Risk Assessment process; potential for co-incineration of other waste; doubt as to whether ash is suitable for use as a fertiliser; potential for groundwater pollution and unsuitability of the site given its low-lying nature and proximity to Ellen Brook and rural land uses; odour; and enforceability of conditions.
- (b) The Appeals Convenor has completed his investigation and his report is now being considered.