

To the Chief Minister, States of Jersey  
Copy to the Minister for Transport  
and Technical Services

Dear Senator Le Sueur

### **Disposal of Solid Waste**

We, being elected Members of the States of Guernsey, are writing to ask you to give us clarification as to the possibilities of inter-island co-operation on this issue.

Your Transport and Technical Services Department has given an indication of costs and tonnages that your new energy from waste facility could accept. This was given to our Public Services Department prior to the decision taken by the States of Guernsey last July when Suez Environnement was selected as the preferred bidder for an energy from waste plant for Guernsey. The capital cost of this plant will be about [REDACTED] with a fixed fee of [REDACTED] plus [REDACTED] per tonne payable annually for a minimum of 25 years for its operation.

It is clear from the indication given to us and from other sources that the Jersey plant will have significant spare capacity for a number of years, if not indefinitely. It has also been suggested that such plants can operate most efficiently if the inputs are close to capacity without encountering any shortfalls.

We have been advised that the marginal cost (to Jersey) of treating waste which uses up spare capacity in the Jersey plant will be quite low, possibly even less than the value of the electricity that would be generated. From this it can be deduced that there is scope for a charge per tonne chargeable by yourselves for handling Guernsey waste that is much lower than the [REDACTED] advised to us last year for handling up to 30,000 tonnes per year for ten years.

In order for the States of Guernsey to consider it as a realistic possibility that co-operation can happen, there needs to be a degree of certainty as to details, and we should be grateful if you would give us the relevant information. If this is to proceed there will be government to government and department to department liaison, but at this stage our Policy Council and Public Services Department are proceeding in line with States resolutions without reviewing other possibilities in the light of up to date information.

Since there are different estimates as to total tonnage that we might need to export to Jersey, it is important to know how much can be handled and for a minimum duration to be specified.

If waste were to be exported to Jersey, there would be some capital cost to us to set up a baling plant and suitable buildings to house this. The costs of shipping would probably be through a local (Jersey) company and would include Jersey and Guernsey harbour dues, which would benefit public revenue in the islands.

Obviously the most important factor is the amount payable to Jersey to cover marginal costs of treatment, including disposal of fly ash and bottom ash. It is understood that it must be seen as beneficial to yourselves, so that an amount that would generate a worthwhile surplus for Jersey is to be expected and is reasonable, especially as it seems likely that there would be some opposition to Jersey handling Guernsey waste. We would be happy to regard any such surplus as our contribution to the capital cost you have incurred.

However, since we are so far advanced in the process of committing to have our own incinerator plant, it will need to be significantly economically beneficial to persuade the majority of Guernsey Deputies to defer or cancel the proposed contract with Suez Environnement.

We trust that you understand our intentions in this very important matter and thank you in anticipation of an informative reply.

Yours sincerely



28 January 2010

Plus 14 or more other Deputies