

City and Council of Swansea

Rt. Hon. Brian Wilson, M.P.,
Minister for ENERGY,
House of Commons,
Westminster, London, SW1

10 SEP 2001

30-8-01-01

Dear Minister,

Re: Bonemeal and Unwanted Meat as a potential FUEL

As you well know there is currently a large mass of unwanted meat simply being incinerated together with offal and masses of abattoir bone waste. I am talking here of the cull cattle over 30 months and sections of carcasses now outlawed from the food chain in post B.S.E. crisis and also the mass of outlawed bone meal previously fed to ruminants. This waste is clean and free from diseased stock (although it could also possibly include Foot & Mouth carcasses). This material is currently being simply "burnt up the chimney" despite its potential high ENERGY content.

I am writing to you and others to suggest that you and others may seize the initiative to start discussions with high energy manufacturing processors such as the cement making industry to ask them to invest in plant conversions to allow this mass of energy to be utilised in their processes to save consumption of other dwindling fuel sources and to put this ongoing mass energy source to a good and proper use.

Currently the French burn over 200,000 tonnes of such bonemeal waste (out of a French total bonemeal waste of 630,000 tonnes) in Cement making plants. The French have two participating Cement plants that were modified at the relatively modest sums of £600K and £1.2m to take this waste (mixed with oil). The Belgians are also going for this. Now the Irish who produce 150,000 tonnes of Bonemeal waste are pressing their Cement plants at Limerick and Meath to use meat carcass/bonemeal waste as a high energy fuel. This makes good common sense for their Governments, and the environmental ecology benefits by the use of waste efficiently instead of simply burning it away up an empty chimney This source of fuel is ongoing forever – I emphasise I am NOT talking about the temporary Foot & Mouth disposal problem - I am talking here of the mass of unwanted waste bone and offal from abattoirs and the older cattle that come to the end of their productive days. Prior to B.S.E. most this was used as feed of one sort or another, now it is a costly disposal problem.

Please can you kickstart some high level discussions on this with Cement makers.