

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party  
*for the South East of England*

John Rainford  
RWE npower  
Site Manager  
Didcot A Power Station  
Didcot  
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Dear John,

I apologise that it has not yet been possible to meet with you - my diary does fill up considerably far in advance and I often find it is better to address some issues in writing. I hope you do not mind me following up on some of the points made in your letter of May 6<sup>th</sup> 2008.

I appreciate that Didcot A has made an investment in facilities that will maximise opportunities for the reuse and recycling of ash. As you note, I was already aware of this from previous correspondence. However, my interest has been in the separation of ash as a means of providing a viable product for further use and I am pleased to now learn that such an approach is being pursued by RWE npower. Are you able to tell me, what proportion of the ash produced by Didcot A is separated by this plant in any given period and what proportion is sold for reuse or recycling?

On the issue of flooding, you explain very clearly why the current infilled lakes and flood valve systems contribute to flood defences. However, it is my understanding that in 2003, these valves did not work and there are serious questions about the extent to which they do indeed act as a flood defence mechanism. You also state that they are designed to work at times when the River Thames has flooded, yet the point is that by infilling the lakes the likelihood of the River Thames flooding in the first place is increased.

Thank you for telling me about the community and educational initiatives through which RWE npower is promoting energy efficiency, as well as about the company's investment in renewable technologies. The websites were very useful but I was unable to find out how much of the 8,000MW of electricity RWE npower generates comes from renewable sources. Nor was I able to find information about what proportion of the company's expenditure relates to renewables. Are you able to provide this information, as an indicator of the extent to which RWE npower is investing in, and committed to, renewable energy sources? At what stage, if ever, does the company envisage it will have fully embraced sustainable decentralised renewable energy generation and ended its dependence on fossil fuels?

Thank you for your time, as ever, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.