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6th May 2008

Dear Dr Lucas

Thank you for your letter of 28th March in response to my earlier letter concerning RWE npower's decision to defer for the time being it's development plans for Thrupp Lake at Radley. I would like to make the following comments in response to the points that you raise in your letter.

Firstly, contrary to some of the repeated statements made by those groups campaigning against the development of Thrupp Lake, and as actually pointed out in an earlier letter to yourself, Didcot A has invested £3 million in state-of-the-art plant to maximise opportunities for the reuse and recycling of ash. This plant, which uses an electrostatic technique to separate the ash the station produces, entered service in 2005 and can produce up to 125,000 tonnes of low-carbon ash per year for use in the construction sector. The plant was constructed following an open tendering process that Rocktron were invited to participate in. The Didcot facility remains the only operational plant of its type at a coal-fired power station in England and Wales, although a similar plant is currently under construction at RWE npower's Aberthaw Power Station in south Wales and should enter service later this year.

All our operations at the site have been subject to licensing/permitting from the Environment Agency (EA) and, for some aspects, Oxfordshire County Council as the local waste authority. As such, our activities have been subject to extensive risk assessment and, coupled with these, we have undertaken ground and surface water monitoring around the entire site for a number of years. This monitoring, which has been routinely submitted to the EA for scrutiny, has not revealed any significant incidents of groundwater pollution that can be attributed to the ash disposal activities nor, as you suggest, any failings in the engineered clay liners that have been installed on the most recent lagoons.

Turing to flooding, then, again, there have been a number of claims recently that the disposal activities at Radley have been responsible for flooding in the locality. These too we strongly refute. Whilst two of the Radley lagoons that are now nearly full do lie in the River Thames floodplain, this was recognised during the planning phase of the development of those lakes. Recognising this, we worked with the EA, who are the competent authority with regard to flood issues, and these lagoons were engineered with flood relief valves in their bund walls.

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These valves are designed to allow water to flow into the lagoon areas at times when the River Thames floods and, being one-way in their operation, hold that water until it can be safely returned in a controlled way to the river via the ash site's consented discharge point. These valves have operated as designed a couple of times within the last year - indeed, during the July 2007 flooding it is estimated that over 6 million gallons of water were stored in the lagoons that would otherwise have contributed to the flooding threat to Abingdon and the towns further downstream, such as Wallingford, Henley and Reading. These lagoons are therefore part of the flood defence measures for this part of the River Thames and not, as has been portrayed by some parties, a contributory factor to flooding.

Flooding was also one of the major issues that were considered as part of the planning application for the development of Thrupp Lake and a specific flood risk assessment was carried out for us by independent consultants. The conclusions of this assessment, which was reviewed by the EA as part of the planning process, were that this lake lies outside of the Thames floodplain and that the proposed ash disposal activities would have a negligible impact on the local flood risk.

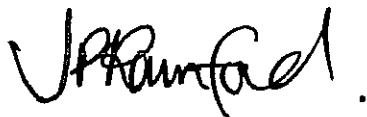
Our plans for the restoration of Thrupp Lake have been openly discussed as part of the planning application process. Our plans are to implement an ecologically-led restoration scheme with a variety of habitats that should encourage a rich and diverse range of wildlife to colonise the restored site. Further details of our restoration plans are given in the enclosed information pack about Radley, which also, incidentally, includes information about the power station, ash, ash recycling and the flooding issues discussed in the previous points.

RWE npower is already very committed to a number of community and educational initiatives associated with energy efficiency. As a result of our work in the community, details of which can be found at http://www.npower.com/web/about_npower/in_the_community/index.htm, we are a member of the 'Percent Club', which means we invest more than 1% of our pre-tax profits in the community. One of the themes for our community investment programme is 'healthy communities' and, through initiatives such as our Health Through Warmth scheme and our Spreading Warmth programme, it focuses on the health of people living in our wider communities. We also have an extensive education programme which involved over 20,000 students at schools, colleges and universities during 2007, including a number in the Didcot area and in activities involving a number of power station staff. Further details of our educational initiatives, which now include a Greener Schools initiative for 7 to 11 year olds and for which we received a Business in the Community 'Big Tick' Award in 2007, can be found at <http://www.npower.com/education/index.htm>.

RWE npower is also committed to using renewable energy sources as part of its generation portfolio. To this extent, we already have invested significantly in wind power, hydro and in the use of biomass at stations like Didcot A. More details of our renewable energy activities in the UK can be found at <http://www.npower-renewables.co.uk/homepage/index.asp>, whilst details of what RWE as a whole is doing can be found at <http://www.npower-renewables.co.uk/ourcompany/rweinnogy.asp>.

I trust that these comments answer the points raised in your letter. However, I would like the opportunity to discuss them with you in more detail and would like to meet with you, either here at the power station, or at another venue that suits you. Perhaps you could contact me to make some appropriate arrangements?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Rainford', with a small dot at the end.

John Rainford
Site Manager

Enc. Radley Information Pack