

Ms Caroline Lucas, MEP
 Suite 58
 The Hop Exchange
 24 Southwark Street
 London
 SE1 1TY

Our ref JPR/10.42
 Name John Rainford
 Phone 01235 516000
 Fax 01235 516095

18th February 2008

Dear Ms Lucas

Deferral of Thrupp Lake Ash Disposal

I am writing to let you know that we are in a position of being able to defer, for the time being, our plans to fill Thrupp Lake near Radley with ash from the Station. This is as a result of a number of factors including successfully securing alternative outlets for utilisation of the ash that we produce. We have been particularly successful in winning contracts for the ash to be used in road-building projects and given the upturn in the construction market we hope that it will continue to be possible to recycle significant amounts of ash in the future, as has always been our aim.

In addition, milder weather conditions over two successive Winters have resulted in less power than expected being generated at Didcot, which has in turn reduced the amount of ash produced on site. Coupled with this, changing energy market conditions could well mean a more evenly distributed pattern of electricity generation between now and station closure by the end of 2015. This should make utilisation of the ash we produce more manageable.

Didcot A is a vital part of the UK's power infrastructure. Therefore, providing the station with a secure location for ash disposal at Thrupp Lake has been vitally important and, in spite of the decision to defer construction, remains so. We would not have invested the significant amount of time and money on the project that we have done, unless we believed it was absolutely necessary.

However, we have always been looking into every possible option for ash re-use or recycling and have always said that we would only fill Thrupp Lake as a last resort if no other options existed.

As things currently stand, we cannot rule out ever having to use Thrupp Lake. Unfortunately it is not possible today to guarantee the amount of ash that can be re-used or recycled in the coming months and years or how weather conditions and market conditions will affect the way the station will run in the future.

We will therefore be keeping the situation under constant review as we continue to explore opportunities to maximise the amount of Didcot's ash that is put to beneficial use and I will keep you informed about any changes to the position at Radley.

RWE npower
 Didcot A Power Station
 Didcot
 Oxon OX11 7HA
 T +44(0)1235/51 22 91
 F +44(0)1235/51 60 97
 I www.rwenpower.com

Registered office:
 RWE Npower plc
 Windmill Hill Business Park
 Whitehill Way
 Swindon
 Wiltshire SN5 6PB

Registered in England
 and Wales no. 3892782

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We are aware that Oxfordshire County Council has been contacted regarding a Judicial Review of its decision not to designate Thrupp Lake as a Town Green. While no formal proceedings have been brought, we feel strongly that the Town Green process has been thorough and robust and we would provide appropriate information to Oxfordshire County Council to support their case should that happen.

In the meantime, if you require any information or if I can be of any assistance then please do not hesitate to contact me on 0800 988 9411 or email contact@npowerradley.co.uk

Yours sincerely



John Rainford
Site Manager