

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party

for the South East of England

Joanna Freyther
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
Oxford

September 21st 2005

Dear Ms Freyther,

I have only recently been informed by constituents about NPowers's plans to fill Radley Lakes with fly ash from Didcot Power station with reference to planning application (EA/PPC/DP3832SB) Application from RWE NPower for a permit to operate a Pulverised Fly-Ash (PFA) landfill at Radley, Oxfordshire. I understand that the period for public consultation has ended but would still like to take this opportunity to object to the proposals so that my comments may be submitted to the relevant planning committee.

The most important reason for my objection is that, as far as I am aware, a complete Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out, assessing the overall impact of the scheme on the area. This is in breach of EU legislation and means that the planning committee does not have access to independent information about the likely consequences of the proposed scheme. Given that the application is significantly different to that which was granted planning permission in 1982, I do not accept that this is simply a variation of an existing application and, therefore, do not accept that an EIA is not required.

It has also been brought to my attention that there may be rare bat species that will be affected should the planning application be given the go ahead, so I would urge you to review the council's obligations under the EU Habitats Directive.

PFA dumping is an unsustainable activity that is being phased out across the EU. By granting planning permission you are sending a clear message to NPower that failing to recycle more of their waste is acceptable. It is clearly not.

There have been a number of pollution incidents recently associated with the dumping of PFA in our area including the killing of thousands of fish at Radley and the leaking of contaminated water through the inadequately engineered protective clay bund around a recently lost lake.

There is a potential pollution threat with respect to the local ground water and the wildlife dependent on clean water. I am advised by people living locally that there have been a number of pollution incidents associated with current PFA dumping activity and the risk will be increased if a further 2 lakes are used in this way.

I have concerns about how the proposals will further impact on an area already at risk of flooding - I understand that the current PFA dumping has already been blamed for increased flooding in the locality.

I trust that you will bring my objection to the attention of the relevant committee and look forward in due course to hearing the outcome of the application.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP

Cc Michael Bowden, NPower