

09/00002: CONSULTATION FROM ADJACENT AUTHORITY – LANDFILL DISPOSAL OF LOW LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE IN PHASES 4, 5A AND 5B OF THE PERMITTED HAZARDOUS WASTE LANDFILL SITE AT EAST NORTHANTS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FACILITY, STAMFORD ROAD, KINGS CLIFFE

APPLICANT: AUGEAN PLC  
 REFERRED BY: CLLR HOLDICH AND CLLR LAMB  
 REASON: MATTER IS OF SIGNIFICANT LOCAL CONCERN  
 DEPARTURE: NO

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## 1 SUMMARY/OUTLINE OF THE MAIN ISSUES

The City Council has been consulted on the application by Northamptonshire County Council:

The main considerations are:

- The type of waste to be landfilled
- The impact on the residents of Peterborough local to the site
- Whether there are wider implications of the proposal to take into account

The Head of Planning Services recommends that the Northamptonshire County Council be informed that Peterborough City Council raised no objection to the application and requests that it is determined in accordance with relevant policy and other material considerations.

The Environment Agency is responsible for the regulation and monitoring of low level radioactive waste disposal and it controls the amount of material that can be brought to the site. The Agency will not authorise the disposal of such waste unless it is satisfied that the site is suitably safe for the disposal of this type of waste.

## 2 PLANNING POLICY

In order to comply with section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 decisions must be taken in accordance with the development plan policies set out below, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

### Development Plan Policies

The application site is Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste Plan area and hence the policies of Northamptonshire County Council and the East Midlands Region should be applied. However, there are no specific policies in those documents that relate to the disposal of low level radio active waste.

### Material Planning Considerations

Decisions can be influenced by material planning considerations the main one being:

- The UK strategy for the management of solid level radioactive waste in the United Kingdom prepared jointly by DEFRA, DTI published in March 2007. This states:

*'Government believes that disposal to an appropriately engineered facility, either below or above ground, with no intent to retrieve should be the end point for LLW that remains following the application of the waste hierarchy...on the basis that new disposal facilities will be of sufficiently robust design such that*

*risks to the public in future will be within the post closure risk target, and therefore postponing final disposal to future generations is unjustified. With regard to LLW and VLLW disposal to landfill, Government sees no reason to preclude controlled burial of radioactive waste from nuclear sites from the list of options to be considered in any options assessment, provided the necessary safety assessments can be carried out to the satisfaction of the environmental regulators.'*

### **3 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL**

A planning application has been submitted to Northamptonshire County Council for the disposal of low level radioactive waste in part of the permitted hazardous waste landfill site at the East Northants Resource Management Facility (ENRMF) at Kings Cliffe. Peterborough City Council has been consulted as adjoining authority. This application is to permit the disposal of waste that contains low levels of radiation which typically arise from the decommissioning of nuclear power stations, science and research facilities, hospitals etc.

The wastes involved usually comprise soils and building rubble, but as they contain small amounts of radioactivity they are not permitted to be disposed in the same way as uncontaminated building waste.

The type of waste involved (low level) is classed as having a radio active content not exceeding 4000 bacquerels per gram (Bq/g) of alpha or 12,000 Bq/g of beta or gamma activity. However, the material to be imported will not exceed 200 Bq/g.

The amount of material to be imported will range between 13,200 cubic m and 14,600 cubic m per year up to 2013. 2013 is the date by which the wider facility will be full.

Nationally there is a need for disposal capacity for this sort of waste. Currently the main permitted facility is a Drigg in Cumbria, but even with a recently permitted extension the capacity of this site is limited and so sites are being sought throughout the country for sites that could be used for the disposal of low level waste.

The waste that is proposed would be disposed of by landfill and would fall within the lowest 5% of radioactive waste. The wastes would be delivered to the site and taken directly to the area where they are to be landfilled. The waste will be kept within the containers within which it is delivered to the site.

The proposals will not increase the extent of the area of land to be landfilled, the volume of landfill (nearly 250,000 tonnes per annum) or the traffic movements associated with it. There will also be no change to the operational life of the site (due to cease in 2013), or to the restoration or aftercare requirements.

Regular monitoring will take place to ensure that management measures in place are fully effective and that the waste presents no danger to site workers, the wider public or to the environment.

### **4 DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND SURROUNDINGS**

The East Northants Resource Management Facility is an established landfill site with complementary waste management facilities, such as soil treatment, located 2.2km south east of the village of Duddington, 3.5km north of the village of Kings Cliffe and 3.3km south south east of Collyweston village. Access is from the unclassified road known as Stamford Road and the haul route runs to and from the A47 to the north.

### **5 CONSULTATIONS/REPRESENTATIONS**

**Local Highways Authority:** It would appear that the proposal does not result in any increase in traffic from that which currently exists, therefore there will be no impact on surrounding road networks including those in the Peterborough area. As such, PCC as Local Highway Authority raise no objection to the proposals.

**Local Health Authority:** No comments received.

**Thornhaugh Parish Council:** No comments received.

**Wansford Parish Council:** No comments received.

**Councillors:** No comments received.

Any consultation responses received prior to the committee will be reported on the update sheet.

## **6 REASONING**

The site is outside the authority area but it is located near to the boundary between this authority and Northamptonshire. It is a landfill site which currently takes hazardous waste and is considered a regional/national facility rather than a local one taking hazardous waste from a wide area including from Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

The proposal would not change the rate at which waste is imported to the site would not change and neither would the routing of vehicles. Thus there would be no greater impact arising from this proposal compared to that already approved. The site already has in place schemes to mitigate such matters as dust and noise and the operational and restoration requirements remain the same as currently approved for the site.

The proposal needs to be considered solely on the basis of the proposed change in the nature of the materials to be landfilled at that site.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

The proposal is of a low key nature, and provided that the waste is handled in accordance with the law and Environment Agency licensing conditions, it is unlikely to have any additional impact on Peterborough City Council administrative area as the scale of operations will not change and neither will the routing of waste to the site.

## **8 RECOMMENDATION**

The Head of Planning Services recommends that the Northamptonshire County Council be informed that Peterborough City Council raises no objection to the application and requests that it is determined in accordance with relevant policy and other material considerations.

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