

**RADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**RADLEY LOCAL LIAISON GROUP (RWE NPOWER)**

**NOTES OF MEETING AT DIDCOT 'A' POWER STATION  
TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST 2008, AT 7.30 PM**

**PRESENT:** Mr John Rainford )  
Mr Phil Noake ) RWE Npower  
Dr Steve Waygood )  
  
Dr B Crowley )  
Mr C Henderson )  
Mr G Rogers ) Radley Parish Council  
Mrs J Standen )  
Dr M Wilson )  
Miss S E Raven )

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Nutt.

**2. LIAISON GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Parish Council suggested the following amendments to the Terms of Reference:

- (a) All references to "CEGB" should be referred to as Didcot 'A' Power Station.
- (b) Paragraph 1.1 should read: "To provide a means of communication between the residents of Radley and the Didcot 'A' Power Station to ensure satisfactory consultation regarding the Power Station's operations in as much as they may affect the residents of Radley."
- (c) The Parish Council representation should be:  
  
Chairman and Vice-Chairman  
Three other Parish Councillors as nominated by Parish Council  
Clerk
- (d) Paragraph 1.2 (c) should be amended to read: "On occasions it may be necessary to invite other interested parties or specialists."
- (e) Paragraph 1.3 should be amended to read: "Formal meetings should be held twice a year, in addition to informal site meetings, and additional meetings would be held if necessary. There should be close communications between the Didcot Power Station and the Clerk and Chairman of the Parish Council."
- (f) Paragraph 1.4 should be amended to read: "To be agreed for each meeting."

- (g) Paragraph 1.5 should be amended to read: “Notes (not formal minutes) should be taken and circulated by the Clerk of the Parish Council.”

John Rainford could see no difficulty with these changes, but **IT WAS AGREED** that an amended version of the Terms of Reference should be prepared and sent to Didcot Power Station so that a comparison could be made with the Terms of Reference for the other Liaison Groups before the final agreement was reached.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING ON 13 MAY 2008**

Radley Councillors requested clarification about the quantities of ash on the stockpile provided to them at this meeting. Mr Rainford confirmed that all unqualified references to ‘ash’ were and would always be to ‘pulverised fuel ash’ (PFA), and that figures provided to the Radley Local Liaison Committee would be the equivalent amounts of dry PFA. However the figure of 112,000 tonnes given for the amount of ash on the stockpile in May referred to wet ash, so that the equivalent dry ash amount would be closer to 90,000 tonnes.

Mr Rainford confirmed that the Power Station had no difficulty in selling the furnace bottom ash (FBA) and that this currently was not a concern.

As these were not notes of the Liaison Group **IT WAS AGREED** that Didcot Power Station should give its update and any remaining questions would come up under the Radley Parish Council update or Any Other Business.

### **4. DIDCOT POWER STATION – RADLEY OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

- 4.1 John Rainford indicated that the generation in January/February/March had been lower than anticipated due to the mild winter, but there had been more generation during the summer period. However, they were in a comfortable position in relation to managing the ash. The Power Station had recently signed up to a significant construction contract to take 100,000 tonnes of PFA, which had just commenced after long negotiations. Mr Rainford said that they were keeping a close eye on what was happening in the construction market to continually try to secure new markets for the PFA. As a result, Mr Rainford was able to confirm that he did not see any need to use Thrupp Lake this coming winter.
- 4.2 The discussions with the Environment Agency in relation to aggregates versus ash continued. The local Environment Agency had agreed a protocol whereby some ash reuse could be treated as exempt from waste regulations. This had to be negotiated with every contract as it was “site specific”. It was emphasized that this was a local agency arrangement, not a national one. There were also ongoing national discussions to try to alter the regulations in relation to the designation of ash as “waste”.
- 4.3 This financial year (calendar year), the dry ash production to date was 173,000 tonnes, which had been split of as follows:

WRG:	50,000 tonnes
Other Sales:	20,000 tonnes
Pro Ash:	60,000 tonnes

The net result being that 43,000 tonnes had been added to stock.

- 4.4 The Power Station was aware of WRG's longer term plans on the site at Sutton Courtenay in relation to ash storage and that they would require a supply of ash for capping beyond the life of the 'A' Power Station. At the moment the contract with WRG was negotiated annually, and the Power Station was hoping to obtain a longer term contract. Discussions were currently taking place between the engineers on the practicability of getting ash to the Sutton Courtenay site. The discussions were positive on both sides, and it was hoped that a longer term option would be secured. John Rainford indicated that he hoped to get the contract signed by the end of this year. Until then, Thrupp Lake was the only other viable alternative and, although John Rainford did not think Thrupp Lake would be needed if this contract was obtained, he could not announce this until the contract was signed. He would keep this continually under review and make an announcement as soon as he could.
- 4.5 He gave details of the production of 'Pro-Ash' by the beneficiation plant, which needed dry ash (and therefore could not generally use stored ash from the stockpile, for example). It had produced 60,000 tonnes this year so far, and this had been matched by sales. However, future sales depended on an uncertain market and at least ten similar power stations to Didcot were competing for the available business.
- 4.6 In relation to Phase I operations, the restoration phase was coming to an end, and the Power Station was looking to surrender the Waste Management Licence. A site meeting had been held with the OCC and the landowner, and before any handover could be agreed, a planning application would need to be submitted outlining the way a new land drainage system that would have to be separate from the outflow system would be constructed. This would divert the drainage directly into Pumney Ditch. It was hoped that a planning application for this would be submitted within this calendar year. It was noted that the water quality checks were carried out by the Power Station on behalf of the Environment Agency. The following matters were raised:
- (a) Fencing: The landowner had requested that the fencing should remain. Most of it was already covered by vegetation and the OCC had asked the Power Station to ensure the open areas be planted so that the whole of the fence would become covered by vegetation. It would be very difficult to reduce the height because of the reinforced concrete posts, but the Parish Council pressed for this reduction to make it a more acceptable fence in the countryside. The Power Station **AGREED** to look again at the concerns of the Parish Council.
  - (b) Old Drovers Road: Martin Wilson outlined the national initiative to find "lost" footpaths and indicated that the only one which had been found in Radley was the Old Drovers Road. At the moment access was blocked by a high gate, and it was queried whether there was any chance of access being allowed in the near future. Steve Waygood **AGREED** to check this.

4.7 In relation to Phase II operations, Lake H/I was now full, and there was no intention to put more ash in this or any of the other operational lakes (G/J/P). The Power Station had revisited the restoration plans for this area, and tabled details of a new restoration plan for Lake H/I, which, they said, would be developed into a planning application to change the current restoration plan. Whereas the original plan was to restore the site to 'agriculture', the new proposal would be more nature conservation-led, and would instead 'restore' Lake H (the eastern end) to a PFA dune and wetland area along the lines of what had been proposed for Thrupp Lake. Drawings outlining the draft plan were tabled. The following matters were raised:

- (a) The bund would be removed to lake surface level as was always planned.
- (b) There was a possibility that problems would occur with cenospheres, emerging into wetland areas and get into the Thames during floods. However it was thought that these had mostly been removed from the PFA.
- (c) Any work undertaken on the lakes would not affect the clay lining – this had to remain undisturbed.
- (d) The Parish Council expressed concerns about the height of the ground-water level to the north of Lake H/I, and the fact that one of the original ditches had been blocked off. Steve Waygood **AGREED** to look into this. In relation to the flood risk, there were ongoing discussions with the Environment Agency, the OCC and Mr Curtis regarding this.

The Power Station was hoping to get the planning application in this year, so that the restoration work could commence next year.

## **5. RADLEY PARISH COUNCIL – UPDATE**

5.1 The Parish Council was pleased that planning permission had been given for the development at Sutton Courtenay, and hoped that the Power Station would be in a position to make a positive statement in relation to Thrupp Lake in the near future.

5.2 There were several matters of concern to the Parish Council:

- (a) Security Guards at Sandles: The Parish Council wondered whether it was still necessary to have these guards. The Power Station indicated that the numbers of guards had been reduced considerably, but it was still felt necessary to retain a presence in the area until the position on the lake is clearer.
- (b) Injunction: The Parish Council hoped that it would be possible to remove the name of one individual from the Injunction. The Power Station indicated that this matter was in determination at the moment and should be reaching a conclusion.

- (c) Newt fence: The Parish Council hoped that this could be removed. The Power Station felt it was necessary to keep some demarcation of the site, but would review the position relating to the current fencing.
- (d) Bat Boxes: The Parish Council wondered what had happened to these.
- (e) Problem of Motorcyclists: There was an increased problem of motorcyclists using the mound, some coming from as far as Wolverhampton. The mound was earth required for the restoration and would therefore be removed during the restoration work, so the problem should be resolved by next year. The land in question belonged to Mr John Curtis, and the Power Station was only responsible for the land within the fencing.
- (f) The Parish Council outlined its vision for the area, i.e. that it should be an area attractive as a wildlife area for visitors. The Power Station confirmed that it had a similar vision for the area, and the question of management of the area was something which would need to be discussed at future meetings. The Power Station stressed that it did not own all the land under discussion and there would have to be discussion with local landowners. For example, by indicating that Bullfield Lake would never be filled with ash, the Power Station had effectively relinquished its interest in that lake. (Their lease was solely for ash disposal.) Bullfield Lake was owned by Mr Curtis and any discussions regarding the future management of this site would need to be with him.
- (g) Future of Didcot 'A' Power Station: The existing Power Station had to close by 2015, and there was potential for it to close in advance of that. The loss of capacity at Didcot would be covered by other power stations, but RWE npower had indicated to the District Council that it was a possible site for further power station development.
- (h) Production Figures: During supper, Phil Noake **AGREED** to reconcile the 2007 Disposals stated in the Parish Council notes of the May meeting with the published figures.

## **6. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT LIAISON GROUP**

**IT WAS AGREED** that there should be a meeting of the Liaison Group in the autumn, and a site meeting in September. The Power Station would look into possible dates.