



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE SOUTH EAST

**Thames Valley Area Team
Planning & Transport Team**

Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
GU1 4GA

Switchboard: 01483 882255
Tel: 01483 88 2870
FAX: 01483 88 2409
GTN: 3011 2870

E-mail: Kevin.bown@gose.gsi.gov.uk
www.gose.gov.uk

Environment & Economy
Oxfordshire County Council
Speedwell House
Speedwell Street
Oxford
OX1 1NE

For the Attn of Mary Thompson

Our Ref: GOSE/103/3/OXON/46833
Your Ref: 8.4/5197/4

16th October 2006

Dear Madam,

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL REGULATIONS) 1992
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND CONSULTATION)
DIRECTIONS 1999**

**PLANNING APPLICATION: RAD/5948/24-CM
PROPOSED NEW BUNDED ASH LAGOON IN EXISTING 'LAKE E' GRAVEL PIT
INCLUDING: CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ASH LAGOON, INCLUDING WORKING
CLAY FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE EXISTING LAKE TO FORM AN IMPERMEABLE
LINING TO THE SIDES OF THE NEW LAGOON; FILLING THE NEW LAGOON WITH
PULVERISED FUEL ASH; RESTORATION TO NATURE CONSERVATION; DEPOSIT
OF SILT AND SLURRY FROM LAKE E TO LAKE G; AND PIPE AND DRAINAGE
WORKS
AT: RADLEY ASH DISPOSAL SITE, RADLEY, ABINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE
APPLICATION BY: RWE NPOWER PLC**

1. I refer to your letter of 17th August 2006 and subsequent information referring to the Secretary of State under the Departure Directions, an application for planning permission for the above development
2. As you know our general approach is not to interfere with the jurisdiction of local planning authorities unless it is necessary to do so. Parliament has entrusted them with responsibility for day-to-day planning control in their areas. Local planning authorities



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE SOUTH EAST

are normally best placed to make decisions relating to their areas and it is right that, in general, they should be free to carry out their duties responsibly, with the minimum of interference.

3. There will be occasions, however, when the Secretary of State may consider it necessary to call in a planning application to determine herself instead of leaving it to the local planning authority. Her policy is to be very selective about calling in planning applications. She will, in general, only take this step if planning issues of more than local importance are involved and if those issues need to be decided by the Secretary of State rather than at a local level. Each case is, however, considered on its own matters.

4. We have carefully considered all the matters raised in this application. Bearing in mind that the issue before her for decision is not whether the application should be granted planning permission but whether or not she should call it in for her own determination; The Secretary of State considers that the main matters relevant to her decision are her planning policies:

- to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment (PPG2 'Green Belts');
- to ensure that our national and international responsibilities for nature conservation are fully met, to ensure that sites designated for their nature conservation value under nature conservation legislation are, as far as possible and consistent with the objectives of designation, protected from damage and destruction, and to ensure that planning permission is not refused if development can be subject to conditions that will prevent damaging impacts on wildlife habitats or other important physical features or if other material factors are sufficient to override nature conservation considerations (PPS9 'Biodiversity and Geological Conservation');
- to ensure that decisions help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy, to enable communities to take more responsibility for their own waste and enable waste to be disposed of in one of the nearest appropriate installations (PPS10 'Waste');
- to meet sport, open space and recreation requirements of the whole community by protecting existing facilities and securing appropriate new provision (PPG17 'Sport, Open Space and Recreation')

5. In addition the Secretary of State has had regard to the development plan for the area comprising the Regional Spatial Strategy (RPG9 2001), Oxfordshire Structure Plan (2016); the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (adopted 1996); and the adopted Vale of White Horse Local Plan (adopted 2006).

6. In considering whether to exercise her discretion to call in this application, the Secretary of State has not considered the adequacy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) produced in support of this application. The local planning authority responsible for determining this application remains the relevant authority responsible for ensuring that the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 are complied with.



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE SOUTH EAST

7. Having carefully considered these and other relevant planning issues raised by this proposal, and having regard for her call in policy, the Secretary of State has concluded that there is not sufficient conflict in this case with national policies on the above matters, or other sufficient reason, to warrant calling in the application for her own determination. The Secretary of State is satisfied that issues raised do not relate to matters of more than local importance, she has therefore decided that the decision as to whether to grant planning permission will remain with Oxfordshire County Council.

8. A copy of the permission that may be granted by the Council for the development should be sent to the Secretary of State at the above address in accordance with paragraph 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Plans and Consultation) (Departures) Directions 1999.

Yours faithfully



Kevin Bown

Authorised by the Secretary of State to sign in that behalf