



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Development Control Committee – 13 June 2012

Key Issues for East Northamptonshire Resource Management Facility; Planning Inspectorate Application WS010001/ENC

Purpose of report: To request that members affirm their position on the key issues of concern to the Council in relation to the East Northamptonshire Resource Management Facility for the impending examination as part of the National Infrastructure Planning application.

Attachment(s)

Appendix 1 - Issues previously raised by ENC to NCC in 2009

Appendix 2 - Summary of potential issues to be provided to Planning Inspectorate

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The East Northamptonshire Resource Management Facility is a hazardous waste landfill site operated by Auegan Plc just outside Kings Cliffe. Members will be aware that this facility was given consent by the Secretary of State in 2009 to accept Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLW).
- 1.2 This Committee meeting is also considering 3 applications for the variation of conditions on the original consent which the County Council as Waste Authority is able to determine. These principally enable an extension of time to 2016 for the original permission.
- 1.3 Alongside this the operator (Auegan) has also submitted an application to extend the facility in relation to its life time and the volume of waste it can process, together with other associated development on the site. The National Infrastructure Directorate (a part of the Planning Inspectorate) has the responsibility of processing this specific application, as it is deemed to be of national significance, on behalf of the Secretary of State.
- 1.4 This Authority, having the facility located within its boundary, is a Statutory Consultee and is automatically registered. However, the Planning Inspectorate require those interested parties who have registered to state what their key concerns/issues are so that they can start to programme the examination and theme key issues for meetings and session during the examination. This submission was required by 1 June 2012.

2.0 Discussion

- 2.1 A holding submission has been provided, which highlights the issues that the Council previously raised with the County Council in 2009 (Appendix 1).
- 2.2 Members are now requested to comment on whether this set of key concerns is still relevant as a starting point and are content that a summarised version of these issues is provided to the Planning Inspectorate. (See Appendix 2)

2.3 Further reports will be brought to this committee during the course of this examination process as we understand the emerging timetable and input requirements from the District Authority. The next submission by the Council should be the Local Impact Report and consideration of this by the committee will be undertaken in due course.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 That Members agree/confirm the key areas of concern in relation to the East Northamptonshire Resource Management Facility application currently in the process of determination through the Planning Inspectorate via public examination.

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| Legal | Power: [REDACTED] | | | | |
| | Other considerations: [REDACTED] | | | | |
| Background Papers: None | | | | | |
| Person Originating Report: James Wilson, Interim Head of Planning Services, 01832 742118, jwilson@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk | | | | | |
| Date: 31 May 2012 | | | | | |
| CFO | | MO | | CX | |
| | | | | | |

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 22)

Appendix 1

Holding submission to PINS National Infrastructure Directorate website to register key issues /concerns. NID Ref. No. WS010001/ENC Ref. EN/12/00555/EXT

Without Prejudice and prior to the Council's consideration of this application, the Council would refer the NIP team to the comments and concerns forwarded to the County Council as part of the original application EN/09/01269/NCC. The Council is due to consider this matter at its Development Control committee meeting on 13th June 2012 and it will forward any revised comments to NIP at that time.

East Northamptonshire Council Response to EN/09/01269/NCC – Augean LLW Application. This council has concerns in relation to the following issues:

- The level of lorry movements associated with the transport of the waste to the site.
- The capacity of the site to deal with the waste.
- There are both schools and a new leisure complex in close proximity to the site.
- The level of security that is/will be provided at the site.
- Waste should be controlled by the appropriate body and Augean should not self monitor.
- The possible effects of leaching of the waste, what happens after 500 years?
- This will set a precedent for both this District and also for the County as a whole if this applicaton is approved.
- The waste should be left where it is if it's such a low level.
- Issues in Corby in relation to lack of proper disposal of hazardous waste in the past are only now coming to a head.
- Nuclear waste isn't the same as toxic waste.
- The type of radioactive waste is the key issue, not the amount.
- It is not clear what chemical reactions will result from the decomposition of the waste and how the waste may be transformed.
- The effect of heating and cooling may well impact upon the potential for leaching from the site for over hundreds of years to come.
- There is the potential for chemcial reactions between toxic and nuclear waste.
- The ability of terrorists to extract the waste and use the material in the future if it were to become transformed.
- Potential for natural causes to result in a breach of the containment in the pits either by geological impact or animal activity.
- There is a need for further research.
- The waste could be converted into a form that we haven't yet experinenced in our lifetime.
- Nuclear waste is normally disposed of in a salt mine (due to lack of water ingress), or granite formation.
- Are the risk assessments adequate? Who carried them out?
- Potential impact from other contaminants.
- Future viability of the company, what happens after 2013?
- Lack of material technical evidence to support approval of the application.
- We are dealing with known unknowns.
- We don't know what will be going into the pits and the type of radiation and the way in which this is emitted.
- There is a significant risk of harm to the community which we currently cannot quantify. In the circumstances there is the potential for significant risk to the public.

- No political or legal system has ever survived the expected lifetime of this waste

Appendix 2

Suggested Summary of Key Issues for East Northamptonshire Resource Management Facility Application NID Ref. No. WS010001/ENC Ref. EN/12/00555/EXT

- Transport movements to and from the site
- Capacity of the site to deal with this waste
- Location of community facilities in close proximity to the site
- Issue of nature of the waste and potential interaction with other hazardous waste
- Issue of the long term risks of hazardous waste and effects on future residents and population
- Potential for leaching from the site
- Nature of the long term risks posed by the waste and the likely changes to political, legislative and monitoring systems over that extensive period
- Issue of subsequent control and commitment to the site by a future operator
- Integrity of the landfill pits and potential breach of containment by either geological or animal activity.