

**PLANNING APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION BY THE LTGDC  
ADDENDUM PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

<b>APPLICATION NO:</b>	08/00460/LTGDC/LBNM
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Beckton Gasworks, Armada Way, London E6
<b>PROPOSAL:</b>	Construction of a combined cycle biofuel generation plant to generate renewable electrical energy.
<b>APPLICANT:</b>	Blue-NG

## 1. Summary

1.1. This is an Officer's addendum to Agenda Item 4, seeking to advise Members of matters that have arisen in relation to the application since the report's date of print.

## 2. Further Information from Applicant

### Air Quality Impact Assessment – PM<sub>2.5</sub>

2.1. The applicant has submitted an assessment of the likely impacts of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, that is, particulate matter smaller than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter. Although there are currently no UK standards or objectives on PM<sub>2.5</sub>, Members should note that the European Commission has adopted a new directive on ambient air quality which includes standards for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The UK is not expected to incorporate this directive until 2009, however the annual mean objective for PM<sub>2.5</sub> will be 25ug/m<sup>3</sup>.

2.2. The sensitive receptors locations detailed in the applicant's supplementary report match those used for the Air Quality Impact Assessment submitted with main application. Member are reminded that the original assessment concluded that predicted NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> levels at these sensitive receptor locations are considered to be with regulatory standards and objectives.

2.3. The assessment concluded that the maximum contribution of PM<sub>2.5</sub> generated by the plant would be 0.14ug/m<sup>3</sup> at the Tesco sensitive receptor site. When considering the background PM<sub>2.5</sub> level at this location, the total PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels at this location would be 14.14ug/m<sup>3</sup>. The amount of PM<sub>2.5</sub> contributed by the plant to the local environment is considered to be negligible. For the information of the Committee, the PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels at Galleons Reach Primary School are predicted to be 14.1ug/m<sup>3</sup>.

### Greenpeace

2.4. The applicant has provided a letter from the Executive Director of Greenpeace UK, John Sauven, who indicates his support for the proposal, namely the use of the gas pressure reduction technique of electricity generation and the use of raw vegetable oil as fuel for generators. Mr. Sauven also makes the point that Greenpeace is concerned about the use of biofuel for transport purposes, however it is the view of the organisation that with strong caveats biofuels have a role to play in electricity generation. Mr. Sauven goes on to offer the assistance of Greenpeace in the development of a biofuel procurement policy.

## 3. Additional Representation

### Support

- 3.1. Two additional letters of support have been received. The first is a letter from Jonathon Porritt in his capacity as Founder Director of Forum for the Future, indicating support for the geo-pressure initiatives within the application.
- 3.2. An email has been received from Roger Higman representing Friends of the Earth stating that the organisation support the capturing of geo-pressure energy and the re-use of waste heat for the purposes of electricity generation and support a tough biofuel procurement criterion as part of a planning agreement. However, it has been stated that Friends of the Earth cannot give its full support of the scheme until such a time as there is a clear Government framework for the development of sustainable biomass use.

### Objections

- 3.3. A further 14 objections to the proposal have been received to date. This brings the total number of objections to the scheme to 46. The primary points raised in the objections relate to air quality, climate change, fuel sourcing, sustainable credentials of the biofuel and the environmental assessment of the scheme. In response to these points, Member's are referred to the officer response in section 7 of the main committee report.
- 3.4. The additional information raised by these objections can be summarised as follows:
  - All consultation with Government and other interested bodies were undertaken in the context of the geo-pressure technology, not biofuel.
  - The scheme does not show how the plant connects with local district heating schemes
- 3.5. In response to these points, firstly any pre-application consultation undertaken by the applicant or other parties is not the subject of the application assessment. With regard to the second point, the plant is fully capable of connecting to district heat schemes in the future should they be provided.
- 3.6. A petition of 500 signatures opposed to the proposal has also been received, which appears to be a result of the protest event on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May, referred to in section 7.5 of the committee report.
- 3.7. A further report critically analysing the Air Quality Impact Assessment has been submitted. The author of the report has not previously objected to the scheme and does not indicate his qualifications or professional affiliations. Advice from Newham's Lead Environmental Health Officer on the contents of the report indicates that the information is significantly flawed and factually incorrect and consequently he does not consider it to have any bearing on the recommendation.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Remains approval, subject to the satisfactory completion of the Section 106 report detailed in the min report.

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CASE OFFICER: Stephen Allen

DATE: 12/06/2008

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