

Department of Energy & Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place,

London SW1A 2AW

T: +44(0)300 068 5682

F:

M:

E: Robert.Pridham@decc.gsi.gov.uk

www.decc.gov.uk

Ms S Thompson
Portbury Parish Council Adcroft House
15 Roath Road
Portishead
Bristol
BS20 6AW

Our Application Ref: 12.04.09.04/21C
Our FOI Ref:12/0383

14 March 2012

Dear Ms Thompson,

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A
BIOMASS FUELLED GENERATING STATION AT ROYAL PORTBURY DOCK,
NORTH SOMERSET (“the Application”)

Thank you for your e-mail and letter of 9 March regarding the Application and requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act.

Your letter sets out your concerns about the potential adverse impacts on amenity and human health arising from dust emanating from the handling, processing or open storage of biomass as part of the operation of the development which is the subject of the Application and asks the Secretary of State to delay making a decision in relation to the Application, implicitly until such time as you have had an opportunity to consider the further information which you request about a woodchip processing plant at Avonmouth.

Your concerns are noted. Similar concerns have been raised by others in connection with the Application. We recognise the potential for dust associated with the handling, processing and storage of biomass to have adverse impacts.

However, having considered your letter, we do not consider that it is necessary or appropriate to delay a decision on the Application. This is because the Secretary of State considers that the risk of adverse impacts from dust emanating from the proposed generating station can be adequately mitigated by means of a planning condition.

Accordingly, a copy of the Secretary of State's decision letter dated 12 March 2012 and related consent documentation can be viewed on the DECC Website (<https://www.og.decc.gov.uk/EIP/pages/projects/Portbury.htm>). I would draw your attention to paragraph 3.4 (a) of the decision letter, which explains that Condition (41) of the deemed planning permission requires that no solid fuel brought to the Site for use in the operation of the Development, or post-combustion residues from the operation of the Development, shall be stored in the open. The condition also requires all gantries, conveyors and other means of transport used to handle solid fuel within the Site to be enclosed so as to prevent the emission of dust, and for effective means to be employed to remove dust discharged from bulk silos. Condition (42) also requires loose post-combustion residues to be removed from Site in sealed vessels. The Secretary of State is satisfied therefore that adequate dust suppression measures are in place to address the potential risks of adverse dust impacts on local residents.

With regard to your request for disclosure of information relating to a woodchip processing plant operated by Stobart Biomass Products Ltd, I am writing to advise you that the information you requested is not held by this Department. However, the Environment Agency may hold the information you are seeking. If you have not already done so, then you may wish to contact them at the following address:

Environment Agency
PO Box 544
Rotherham
S60 1BY

Tel. 0370 8506506
e-mail: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Jim Campbell, Director, Energy Development Unit, Area B 3rd Floor, 3 Whitehall Place, London

Please remember to quote the reference numbers above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The

Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Rob Pridham
Manager, Onshore Power Consents