

Our ref: 40b – Planning Conformity/Final Responses/Wakefield, Waste Management Facility, South Kirkby, Aug 08

11 September 2008

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Dear Alex

Planning Application Number: 08/01633/FUL

Redevelopment for strategic waste management facility at South Kirkby Colliery (Land Within Former), Off Hemsworth Road, South Kirkby.

The Assembly is grateful for the opportunity to comment on this proposed development. The Assembly, as the Regional Planning Body, has been asked to comment on this development as its nature and location mean that it could have an effect on the implementation of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The current RSS - The Yorkshire and Humber Plan was issued by the Secretary of State in May 2008. The RSS has the status of a Development Plan Document and forms part of the framework for decisions taken under section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), which means that decisions on all applications have to be taken in accordance with the Development Plan unless other material considerations indicate otherwise.

Regional Policy Context

Policies in RSS seek to focus development on the region's town and city centres. The Core Approach (Policies YH1-YH9) makes it clear that most new development, and high trip generating uses, should be focused on Regional Cities and Sub-Regional Cities and Towns and that away from these sufficient development should be permitted in Principal Towns to enable them to fulfil their role as service centres. However, the nature of the activities required to provide effective and competitive waste management and treatment will not be appropriate for many sites within the settlement network identified in the Core Approach. In these circumstances the location proposed is acceptable.

Several policies in the RSS are relevant when considering this proposal, including environmental and economic policies.

Policies ENV12, ENV13 and ENV14 of RSS are all relevant when considering this proposal. These policies encourage facilities that will lead to the reduction and reuse of materials and take into account the principles of the waste hierarchy, self-sufficiency at the regional and local level, the proximity principle and the Regional Waste Management Strategy.

Policy ENV13 emphasises the need for waste planning authorities to ensure that adequate sites and facilities are available to manage municipal and commercial & industrial waste. The policy also states that capacity of treatment and recovery facilities to deal with municipal and commercial and industrial waste will need to double by 2020 in all sub regions to provide the additional capacity identified in Table 10.4.

RSS provides figures for the additional capacity required to manage municipal and commercial & industrial waste in the West Yorkshire sub-area. Table 10.4 provides capacity figures for West Yorkshire of 1,148,000 tonnes by 2010, 322,000 tonnes by 2015 and 1,584,000 tonnes by 2021. The proposal would help to meet these capacity figures in West Yorkshire.

The proposed energy plant will support the implementation of both current and current RSS waste policy. It will assist in:

- moving the management of waste up the waste hierarchy
- achieving the statutory waste management targets
- achieving local and regional self sufficiency in terms of waste management
- achieving the objectives and targets of the Regional Waste Management Strategy.

Climate Change & Renewable Energy

Policy YH2 of RSS deals with the issue of climate change and resource use. YH2 provides for plans, strategies, investment decisions to help meet the target set out in the RES to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the region in 2016 by 20-25% (compared to 1990s levels) with further reductions thereby by: facilitating effective waste management. In line with these policies, the proposed development will assist in reducing carbon dioxide emissions in the region.

Renewable Energy

The sustainable use of resources is a key theme in RSS. Policy ENV5 states that in advance of local targets being set in DPDs, new developments of more than 1000 sq m of non residential floorspace should secure at least 10% of their energy from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources.

The proposal states that the development will include a combined heat and power plant. Policy ENV5 provides for the maximisation of the use of combined heat and power, particularly for developments with energy demands over 2MW, and

incorporating renewable sources of energy where possible. Therefore this element of the proposal would be in line with RSS policy.

Economic Development

Policy E1 of RSS covers the methods of creating a successful and competitive regional economy. Section J of this policy seeks to provide "*opportunities for business relating to...resource and waste efficiency and environmental technologies and the 'low carbon economy'*". The energy generating facility will help fulfil this policy goal.

Transport

The site is located closely to the Hemsworth By-Pass, which provides access to the strategic highway network. Policy T4 current RSS (2004) and draft RSS (2005) seeks to locate development which generate high levels of freight and commercial traffic closest to intermodal freight facilities, rail freight facilities, ports and wharves or roads designed and managed as traffic distributors. It also seeks to maximise the use of rail or water for freight movements from new developments and significant changes of use and recognise the contribution that these modes can make to the transportation of bulk materials including waste.

Conclusion

Given the issues set out above, the Assembly offers the following comments that:

- The Assembly SUPPORTs the application in principle on the basis that it will assist in the implementation of RSS, in terms of environmental and economic considerations.
- The development is supported in principle by the Assembly as helping to implement RSS waste policy.
- There should be an emphasis on ensuring multi-modal freight access to the site.

If you have any queries about these points, please do not hesitate to contact Andy Haigh on 01924 331601.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Box', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Box
Chair, Regional Planning Board
Yorkshire and Humber Assembly