

Almuth Ernsting
Co-Director, Biofuelwatch

28th February 2011

Dear Mr Turner,

Re: Planning Application Ref 11/00106/FUL : Energy generating plant at Loicher Lane, Ecclesfield

I am writing on behalf of Biofuelwatch to object to Hargreaves Services' new application for an energy generating plant at Loicher Lane. We are deeply concerned that this may be a revamp of the former application for a biofuel power station (Ref. 09/02979/FUL) which was to have been discussed by the planning committee but which I understand is now being withdrawn. The following facts suggest to us that this may indeed be an application for the same development proposed for that site since 2009:

- The electricity generating capacity is identical – up to 8MW;
- ignition engines will be used, a term which covers diesel engines. Rocpower's previous application involved diesel engines, too;
- no information about fuel sourcing, which means that, if the application was granted, any pure plant oil or biodiesel could be used, as could mineral diesel;
- no heat capture and thus low expected efficiency;
- the same Rocpower managers are involved as in the old application;
- Nowhere on the Hargreaves website is there any reference to a remit of building non-biofuel liquid electricity generating stations. Rocpower's only remit is to “develop small biomass power plants that will use bio-fuels sourced and supplied by Rocfuel (www.hargreavesservices.co.uk/rocpower.aspx).

We are deeply concerned to hear that the application may be determined this month, based on the minimum information supplied by the company, which includes no details as to what type of fuel will be burned, let alone the impacts of the fuel, none about conversion efficiency (which were as low as 35% in the previous application), potential for noise, odour and air pollution. The previous application showed that some 10,000 tonnes of fuel would be burned to produce 8 MW of energy. The air quality impacts of burning such quantities of any type of fuel, especially in an urban area, one which is designated an Air Quality Management Area due excessive levels of nitrogen dioxide, clearly appear a very significant issue. We are therefore very concerned that no air quality assessment has been submitted by the company.

The recent decision by the Secretary of State to grant permission for a biofuel power station in Bristol acknowledged that the source and sustainability of biofuels used for electricity generation are material considerations in planning decisions, and included conditions to limit the types of fuel that could be used."

We are aware that the previous application had been called in and would have been considered by the Planning Committee and given that this new one appears to be very similar, if not identical to the previous plans, we believe that the same should apply to this one.

We would ask you to regard our previous objection to planning application number 09/02979/FUL and associated correspondence sent by us as the basis for our objection to planning application 11/00106/FUL . If future documentation received from the company suggests significant differences from their previous application, especially if they were to formally rule out bioliquid

use, then we would reconsider our planning objection and notify you of our position at that time.

Best regards,

Almuth Ernsting