

15th January 2010

Sue Penaluna  
Devon County Council  
Topsham Road  
Exeter  
EX2 4QD

Our Ref: 402.0036.00350

Dear Mrs Penaluna

**Development of the New England Resource Recovery Centre, near Lee Mill, Devon, to include an Energy from Waste facility with a capacity of 275,000 tonnes per annum of residual Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Commercial and Industrial Waste (C&I) with bottom ash recycling, a non hazardous landfill; and associated visitor centre, ancillary offices, welfare, parking facilities, dual weighbridge/wheel wash; also new access road linking into the A38 at Lee Mill with new river crossing over River Yealm and associated aftercare and landscaping improvements across the whole site with associated woodland management plan**

A planning application is hereby submitted on behalf of Viridor for the development of the New England Resource Recovery Centre, located at New England Quarry, near Lee Mill, Devon. The Centre will accept some 275,000 tonnes of residual, non-hazardous waste per annum.

The site is located at National Grid reference SX595 548 (as shown on Drawing 0350/01). The northern extent of the site is located immediately to the south of Lee Mill and the A38 road. It lies approximately 2km to the south west of Ivybridge.

The application area is situated entirely within the District of South Hams and within two Parish Councils: the access road lies within Sparkwell Parish, and the buildings and landfill element are within Yealmpton Parish.

The planning application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES) that examines the potential impacts of the facility across the full range of environmental issues. The ES has been prepared with reference to the Scoping Opinion issued by your Authority in 2009. Further consultation has also been carried out with statutory and non-statutory consultees during the preparation of the ES. This process was augmented with a programme of public consultation during the latter part of last year.

The findings of the EIA for the facility have concluded that having taken into account the proposed mitigation, the effects of the development are not considered to be significant. The impacts which could be considered to be most contentious (air quality/human health, landscape and visual, traffic, flood risk and nature conservation) have been mitigated as a

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result of the iterative design process and through careful consideration of emissions control and abatement techniques and high quality architectural and landscape design.

The potential impact of the development in respect of issues such as noise, and cultural heritage, were also subject to detailed assessments. The conclusion in respect of each of these is that the nature of the development and the design process will ensure that there are no adverse impacts in respect of these issues.

On the basis that there are no adverse environmental impacts, the appropriateness of the proposed development must be considered in terms of the potential benefits. These include:

- The facility will provide much needed recycling and resource recovery capacity for local businesses and authorities to allow them to improve environmental performance and reduce costs through the avoidance of landfill and landfill tax;
- The facility will maximise the recovery of resources through the production of energy in the form of electricity and potentially heat;
- The effective implementation of site specific objectives of the Waste Local Plan;
- The facility will generate approximately 25MW of electricity for export to the National Grid, maximising the recovery of resources and contributing to energy security for the area;
- The facility is in compliance with national, regional and local planning policies for siting waste management facilities and will enable national, regional and local waste and recovery targets to be met;
- Will satisfy the principle of sub-regional self sufficiency helping the South West Devon sub-region to be at the forefront of sustainable waste management;
- The facility will provide approximately 40 permanent jobs and in the region of 200 or more temporary jobs during the 3 year construction period; and
- Enable the local economy to benefit from additional employment and be sustained by wages and salaries received and spent in the local economy by people directly employed on the operational side.

The conclusion is reached that the proposal is in compliance with the intentions of national and local authorities to promote sustainable methods of waste management and the Resource Recovery Centre proposed at New England will deliver the infrastructure required to drive forward sustainable waste management in South West Devon.

The Planning Application constitutes a number of statutory and other documents: (15 copies of each) as follows. Attached to this letter is a short report that identifies the requirements of the Devon County Council checklist.

- Volume 1:
  - this letter;
  - set of appropriately completed and signed planning application forms;
  - signed Certificates;
  - a full set of application plans

- The Supporting Statement
- Appendices to the Supporting Statement; and
- The Design and Access Statement
  
- Volume 2:
  - The Application Plans;
  
- Volume 3a: Environmental Statement
  - Sections 1 – 8
  
- Volume 3b: Environmental Statement
  - Sections 9 – 11
  
- Volume 3c: Environmental Statement
  - Sections 12 – 18
  
- Volume 4:
  - Non-Technical Summary

A full set of the application is also included on a CD and twenty copies of that are enclosed. In addition, a cheque payable to Devon County Council for the sum of £39,015 is attached.

As referred to above, Viridor has already undertaken an extensive period of pre-application community involvement and details of this are included within the planning application documents. The Company acknowledges that further consultation will be necessary, and will be pleased to discuss this application with all stakeholders.

Should you required further copies or any additional information relating to the scheme, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**for SLR Consulting Limited**

**Will Ryan**

Principal

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Encs.