

Mr Terry Ellames
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File: 12.1

18 December 2007

Dear Mr Ellames

Proposal:

Erection of a Terminal Building (capable of processing 500 000 passengers per annum) and 637 car Parking Spaces - Application No: YO6/1647/SH

Location: Lydd Airport

Proposal:

Construction of a 294 Metre Runway together with an Additional 150 Metre Starter Extension - Application No: YO6/1648/SH

Location: Lydd Airport

Further to my letter of 2nd March 2007, I am writing to you on behalf of British Energy to maintain our objection on the above applications. In summary, the grounds for this objection are as follows:

Potential additional aircraft accident hazard to the safe operation of Dungeness B Power Station

We are opposed to any increased risk from external hazards on our plant and would not wish to see such large scale development of air traffic in close proximity to the Dungeness Site if this can be avoided.

We have been assessing the potential risk of an expanded Lydd Airport on Dungeness B power station. This assessment has been carried out in accordance with our legal responsibilities as a Nuclear Licensee, under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965. The results of this assessment indicate that the incremental risk is low. However, our fundamental position on this matter is that any increased risk to the safety of the power station should be avoided.

The Potential for New Nuclear Build at Dungeness

The Government's Energy Review entitled "The Energy Challenge" was published on July 11th 2006. In Chapter 5, paragraph 5.93 the Government states it:

"believes that nuclear has a role to play in the future UK generating mix alongside other low carbon generating options."

The Government has also highlighted in the Review that industry has indicated that the most viable sites for nuclear new build are likely to be adjacent to existing nuclear power plants. See paragraph 5.126

In February 2006, the then Department of Trade and Industry established a nuclear siting expert group to consider the potential availability of UK sites for new nuclear power stations, should they be required, and for developing options for government action against possible nuclear energy policy scenarios.

The April 2006 final report of this expert group summarises the major business, economic, safety, environmental and technical factors that could influence the selection of a site for construction of one or more new nuclear power stations in the UK and concludes that:

"Several existing nuclear sites in the South of England appear to be strong candidates as potential locations for new nuclear build funded by the private sector."

The final report also produced a preliminary assessment by the DTI expert group of the development potential of existing nuclear power station sites for new nuclear build. **Dungeness is highlighted in the report as a strong candidate for potential further nuclear development.**

Potential additional aircraft accident hazard on the safe operation of potential new build at Dungeness

Should the Government decide that there is a role for new nuclear power station development in the UK, there are likely to be a limited number of suitable sites available. As indicated by the Government's early assessment work, Dungeness is likely to be a strong candidate for development. The planning determination of the proposed airport expansion must, we believe, take full account of the impact the development could have on the viability of the Dungeness site for further nuclear build. Any development near to the site with the potential to foreclose new nuclear build is likely to be against the national interest.

We need to guard against any issue, real or perceived, that might compromise the value of the site to the country. An expanded Lydd airport will

increase the risk of aircraft crash hazard on any new plant. The degree of risk will be over and above that calculated for Dungeness B. We believe the strategic importance of the Dungeness site for future nuclear development should not be compromised in any way by increasing the risks from external hazards. The large scale increase in air traffic around the site is a risk that should be sensibly avoided in the local and wider public interest and we maintain our strong objection to the proposed development.

Yours sincerely

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