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PRESS RELEASE

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THE RADLEY LAKES – THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE!

Radley Lakes campaigners say that a recent planning application shows that there is an alternative to dumping pulverised fuel ash (PFA) from Didcot Power Station in Thrupp Lake at Radley – in the form of 8 million cubic metres of landfill space at the Sutton Courtenay Landfill Site, just a few metres north of the Power Station. PFA from Didcot is already being disposed of at the site.

The Sutton Courtenay Landfill Site is operated by Waste Recycling Group Ltd (WRGL). They have applied to Oxfordshire County Council to vary conditions on the existing planning permission for the landfill site, granted in 1996. One condition requires the site to close by 31 December 2012. The current planning application says that, when WRGL applied for planning permission in 1996, they underestimated the amount of space at Sutton Courtenay by 4.6 million cubic metres.

Because the landfill site is so much larger than originally thought (there is around 8 million cubic metres of space remaining) and because the amount of waste going to landfill is falling as a result of recycling policies, WRGL is asking Oxfordshire County Council to extend the life of the site from 2012 until 2021.

Save Radley Lakes spokesperson Marjorie White said:

“An extra 4.6 million cubic metres of landfill space has just been found at Sutton Courtenay. That’s about *nine* times the volume of the Thrupp Lake at Radley. The Sutton Courtenay Landfill Site is now realised to be so large that they can’t fill it up fast enough. They’re having to ask the County to extend the planning permission by another nine years, just so they can fill the site up.

“Some of that space could be used for the PFA, which RWE npower wants to put in a County Wildlife Site, at Radley. PFA from Didcot is already is already being dumped at Sutton Courtenay. Now we know how much space there really is at Sutton Courtenay, it’s impossible to see how Oxfordshire County Council can give planning permission for Radley on the basis that there are no alternatives.

Save Radley Lakes

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J Cartmell (Secretary); L J Pasquire (Treasurer);
E Dangerfield; P Harbour Ph.D.; R Thomas LLB, MIFA, FSA; M White

“County Council officers met representatives from WRGL in July, just after the Radley Lakes application had been to the planning committee, to discuss the situation at Sutton Courtenay. Why those officers didn’t put two and two together then, and suggest dumping more PFA at Sutton Courtenay, is beyond us!

In the light of this new information, to proceed with the disposal of ash at Radley would seem to be nothing less than a totally needless act of vandalism!”

The Save Radley Lakes group has written to Oxfordshire County Council, asking them not to issue the planning permission for Radley until the possibility of disposing of the PFA at Sutton Courtenay instead has been properly looked into.



Vacant gravel pit at Sutton Courtenay. Is this a better place to dump the fuel ash from the Power Station?

For further information, please contact Marjorie White, Save Radley Lakes Press Officer, Tel 01235 530174.