

GRO/CV/P17-0795

22 June 2017

Mr Phil Watson
Development Control Manager
Northamptonshire County Council
Development Control
Planning Services, Floor 3
Guildhall Road Block
County Hall
Northampton
NN1 1DN

Dear Phil Watson

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF A CONDITION FOLLOWING GRANT OF
PLANNING PERMISSION 15/00090/WASFUL
LAND AT WORMSLADE FARM, CLIPSTON ROAD, CLIPSTON, MARKET
HARBOROUGH
PLANNING PORTAL REF. PP-06165656

Pegasus Group is instructed by Wormslade Biogas Ltd (“the applicant”) to submit an application to vary conditions 2, 5 and 14 attached to planning permission 15/00090/WASFUL granted by Northamptonshire County Council on 30 June 2016. The permission allows for an anaerobic digester on land at Wormslade Farm fed with a mixture of agricultural waste and energy crop. The permission has not yet been implemented. The Applicant is proposing to modify the feedstock to incorporate other waste material in liquid and solid form. The proposed amendments will not increase the approved tonnage of feedstock and this will remain at 46,000 tonnes per annum.

Background

As cited in the approved documentation, the applicant will deliver the financial package that will secure a step change to the sustainable farming practices of contributing local farms by removing the need for them to landspread untreated agricultural manure. The project’s financial model incorporated the Government’s Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme and Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2015. The Renewables Heat Incentive [“RHI”] is the Government toolkit which supports the development of anaerobic digestions projects. However, the Government are introducing changes to the eligibility criteria for bio-methane injection schemes. The Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (previously DECC) are implementing changes to the RHI that will take the direction of anaerobic digestion away from facilities which are predominantly fed on purpose grown crops (known as energy crops). This is to steer away from the potential situation where energy crops, and the competition for land, could inadvertently compromise food production and food security. As an alternative, the use of commercial waste as a feedstock is being actively encouraged by the Government.

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First Floor, South Wing, Equinox North, Great Park Road, Almondsbury, Bristol, BS32 4QL

T 01454 625945 F 01454 618074 www.pegasuspg.co.uk

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The proposed changes to the permitted scheme directly respond to the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy's intention to implement changes to the rules and regulations that govern biomethane production. These changes are taking the direction of Anaerobic Digestion (AD) away from facilities which are predominantly fed on agricultural crops to schemes where at least 50% of the biogas is derived from feedstock that are waste. Only 11% of the permitted feedstock at Wormslade is derived from agricultural waste (slurry) and as such in order to secure the plant's sustainability credentials for the longer term, the applicant is now looking to offset a proportion of the harvested feedstock with food or other commercial waste. The objective here is to increase the 'waste' element of the feedstock from 11% to a minimum of 50%. The appropriate additional waste arisings will be locally sourced, within a defined catchment area, in line with the sustainable sourcing strategy of the RHI and the Development Plan. The sustainable waste will replace the need to transport up to 18,000 tonnes per annum of silage, biomass and maize to site.

The planning application has been submitted via the planning portal and ascribed with reference number PP-06165656. The planning application fee of £195.00 has been paid directly by the applicant.

I trust that the above is sufficient for the application to be validated. However, if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Colin Virtue
Executive Director
e-mail: colin.virtue@pegasuspg.co.uk

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