



Commodore S R Dearden ADC Royal Navy
Naval Base Commander



Building NO58
HM Naval Base Devonport
PLYMOUTH PL2 2BG
Email: DESNBCD-SNW-NSSM@MOD.UK

Tel: (01752) 552219
Fax: (01752) 554008

Mr Alan Hartridge
Development Co-ordinator
Development Management Unit
Plymouth City Council Planning Services
Floor 9
Civic Centre
Plymouth
PL1 2EW

05 September 2011

PLANNING APPLICATION: 11/00750/FUL LAND AT NORTH YARD, DEVONPORT DOCKYARD, PLYMOUTH, PL2 2BG

1. Thank you for your letter of 26 May 2011 advising that the above Planning Application has been submitted by MVV Environment Devonport Ltd (MVV) to Plymouth City Council to construct and operate an Energy from Waste facility with Combined Heat and Power on Ministry of Defence land at Weston Mill Lake. I am writing in response to this letter and one to URS Scot Wilson Limited (11/0750/FUL dated 1 July 2011 refers), in which you seek clarification on a number of issues covered in the Planning Application and Environmental Statement for the proposed Energy from Waste plant. In particular, I understand that you are seeking evidence of support and information from beneficiaries of the proposed commitment, of which the Ministry of Defence is one.

2. I would like to start by expressing the support of the Ministry of Defence for the planning application by MVV. Very early in the South West Devon Waste Partnership's competition, Ministry of Defence staff identified significant potential benefits to the Naval Base and adjacent dockyard from locating an Energy from Waste plant in the Naval Base. Since then, Naval Base and Babcock staffs have been working with MVV to assist, where necessary, with the development of MVV's proposals. From this work, we assess that the anticipated benefits to the Ministry of Defence alone are wide ranging and include savings in both cost and carbon emissions through to local educational opportunities.

3. You will be aware that the long term future of the Dockyard was confirmed in the Strategic Defence and Security Review, and has recently been further reinforced by the decision to build the Royal Marine Landing Craft Support and Training Facility at Devonport. Across the Ministry of Defence there remains, however, an ongoing requirement to drive down costs, so we are always looking for ways of further reducing the cost of running the Naval Base, thereby helping to sustain defence activities in Plymouth. To this end, I can confirm that agreements have been signed with MVV that, over a period of 25 years, could provide around a 20% financial saving on the Naval Base and dockyard energy bill, which currently exceeds £12 million each year.

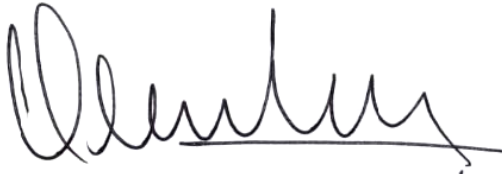
4. The Government has recently published the new Greening Government Commitments that will replace the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estates

[Defence Equipment & Support](#)

(SOGE) targets. The Ministry of Defence has challenging Sustainable Development targets for carbon emission reduction and it is anticipated that the Energy from Waste plant will greatly assist the Naval Base in delivering reduced emissions associated with the use of electricity from activities on the Naval Base. I would like to assure you that the anticipated benefits provided by the proposed Energy from Waste plant do not in any way remove the long-term requirement, and our ongoing commitment, to driving down energy usage or increased re-cycling, for which we have also been set challenging targets.

5. There are a range of additional benefits that the proposed facility will bring to the Naval Base. Firstly, I can confirm that the North Yard and Fleet Accommodation boilers need not be operated when the Energy from Waste plant is running, thereby further reducing emissions. This will be of significant additional benefit in supporting energy supply to the new build Naval Service Recovery Pathway Expansion Project. Secondly, the electrical supply to ships and submarines, the Naval Base and the dockyard, is derived from several independent grid connections, supported by on-site standby diesel generators; the proposed Energy from Waste plant will therefore provide a significant additional supply to further reinforce electrical supply availability. Finally, as you may be aware, the Ministry of Defence runs an Engineering Apprentice Development Scheme and the Energy from Waste plant will provide a valuable educational and work experience opportunity for students during the construction phase and subsequent operation of the plant.

6. I hope that this is helpful and provides the confirmation you are seeking that the Ministry of Defence strongly supports the Energy from Waste facility development given the anticipated resultant benefits.



S R Dearden
Commodore Royal Navy
Naval Base Commander Devonport

Copy to:

Mr Paul Carey
MVV Environment Devonport Ltd
60/66 North Hill
Plymouth
PL4 8EP

Mr I Roach
URS / Scott Wilson
Mayflower House
Armada Way
Plymouth
PL1 1LD