

THE INVERGARRY BIOMASS POWER STATION PROPOSAL:

Dear Stephen

We understand that a decision on this issue is likely to be made very soon and know that you have already studied all relevant points. Nonetheless we wish to present a very short comment on the latest graphic presentation from NEDL, and to headline some of our earlier comments. We would be grateful therefore if this summary can be included in the relevant papers on behalf of Glengarry Action Group, who aim to represent the views of the whole community.

ON RECENT GRAPHICS:

These may contain more realistic facade detail, but in fact they underline rather than conceal the truly massive size of the proposed power station. They also omit the steam cloud, which will always be visible from near and far, and omit the roadside splay. Since they focus on graphics, noise issues are not even considered.

see NEDL Visual Impact Study View A and view C

Selected perspectives are again evident where a plant substantially higher than selected trees on either side is still somehow portrayed as being much lower - far from the truth, we feel.

see NEDL Visual Impact Study p 7

ON GENERAL POINTS.

Scottish Natural Heritage is now against electricity-only biomass (WEB page, and written confirmation)

At last - NEDL confesses - this is **NOT a CHP** plant, after all - just electricity-only, and 24% efficient.
(NEDL's last Planning letter)

This proposed power station wastes 14 megawatts thermal, and produces only 4.5 MW output. Contrast with the millenium windfarm (18MW) and Glengarry hydro schemes (48MW) ,to see how heavy the investment, how damaging the impacts, and how small the returns would be.

The Forestry Commission can't keep up - too few trees are being grown in Scotland.

(Times article April 2010, Guardian article...) **HELP NEEDED HERE**

NEDL admits - Maximum up to 4 jobs will be created (all technical), not 30 as in initially suggested.

ON LOCAL IMPACTS.

Invergarry has 23 listed buildings, being a Model Victorian Village.
(Historic Scotland:)

Glengarry depends heavily on tourism, which is focused on peace, tranquility, very varied wildlife, and scenic splendour. So local tourism, our life-blood, would be permanently damaged.
(77 full-time and 63 part-time jobs in tourist trade in Glengarry.)

We believe the original Noise Assessments exclude the 160+ cooling fans - NEDL will not comment on this. (The parent Wartsila pilot plant **IS CHP** - thus no fans are required).

NEDL states that this enormous industrial building and its 24/7 processes make intrusive noise likely to disturb nearby housing, unless all doors and windows in the houses are permanently kept shut. And this excludes additional low frequency noise disturbance.
(NEDL Noise Assessment, 8.5.3, and 8.5.4.)

The recommended distance to habitation, for Biomass plants, has been disregarded.

The permanent steam cloud combined with night lights shining from dusk till dawn mean significant light degradation of the local environment will occur.
(Inferred from NEDL application)

The planned 24 metre stack is a "worst case" scenario. It will be topped by a permanent large steam cloud visible from afar. Daily emissions would include 163 tons water, and 2.28 tons of particulates (some potentially harmful to health). The steam is emitted at 155 degrees, together with 292 tons of nitrates per day, and acid rain will result on condensation.
(Quotation, and all calculations, from NEDL Planning Application)

Temperature inversions could cause these flume products to spread over the village and the primary school. NEDL does not even consider this issue.

The photomontage of the plant towering over the trees, as seen from within the cemetery, says it all. NEDL has shown complete contempt for the local population, to whom this cemetery is very important.
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