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Ref: 11P050/SS
(in reply please quote)

Mr Toby Philp
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Department of Planning
Received
06 OCT 2011
Scanning Room

Dear Mr Philp,

On behalf of my constituents I am submitting comments to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure regarding AGL Energy Limited's Environmental Assessment for the Dalton Power Project.

I thank you and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure for this opportunity.

This submission includes correspondence from three local families living within a 20 kilometre radius of the proposed power plant at Dalton.

Each letter notes concerns about various elements of AGL's Environmental Assessment including road traffic and noise, air quality, water supply and effect on flora and fauna.

While I support development and investment within the Burrinjuck electorate, after reviewing constituent letters, AGL Energy Limited's Environmental Assessment (EA) and meeting with an AGL representative there are some elements of the EA that need further clarification.

- **Air quality** – AGL can only give a vague estimation of air quality for people living around the plant. Air quality monitoring needs to be done in and around Dalton. The health of people living in the area should not be compromised by this plant.
- **Road traffic** – Local roads including the Loop Road and the Gunning – Dalton Road need to be upgraded in order to handle

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the weight and frequency of traffic required for the plant during construction and normal operation. In addition the railway Bridge at Gunning on the Dalton Road will need upgrading to allow for initial transportation of gas turbines to the proposed site and on an on-going basis to account for increased traffic flow to and from the site. Can AGL inform the communities of Gunning and Dalton what route traffic will take when travelling through town and at what times? I urge AGL to tailor the time of day when traffic flows through town, so as to cause minimum disruption to people living in the area.

- **Water** – AGL Energy Limited has not finalised where water for the power plant will come from. This is likely to have an impact on surrounding primary producer's ability to water stock and crops as well as local water supply for the towns of Gunning and Dalton. I would strongly urge AGL to make a significant capital contribution to the proposed augmentation and upgrade of the Gunning-Dalton water supply infrastructure.
- **Pipeline/transmission infrastructure** – AGL needs to closely consult with landowners with respect to obtaining any easements for the augmentation of existing gas pipelines and high voltage electricity transmission infrastructure to the proposed power station. AGL also needs to mitigate the productive and environmental impacts of any such upgrades.
- **Noise** – Local residents are concerned about the noise associated with construction and operation of the plant. I would ask that the concerns raised by residents to other gas-fired power stations located in rural areas (namely Origin Energy's Uranquinty Power Station) are considered, specifically the propagation of low frequency noise under varying climatic conditions. While the proposed development is for a peaking open cycle gas-fired power station, I would ask that approved operating hours are developed in conjunction with local stakeholders. Any proposal to amend/expand the power station should trigger new consents and approvals.
- **Flora and Fauna** – Neighbours to the proposed plant site, Mr and Mrs J Walsh believe investigations into the stated impact on flora and fauna within the EA are inadequate. A number of birds, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and weeds known to the local area fail to have been addressed in the assessment.
- **Community investment** – AGL needs to clearly outline what contribution it will make to the local community via an ongoing community investment fund over the operational life of the power station. It is generally accepted that a percentage of the overall capital cost of the project is ascribed to a community investment fund.

I bring these issues to your attention for your closest consideration.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to the proposed development of gas power plant at Dalton and I wish you well in the task.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

KATRINA HODGKINSON MP

Member for Burrinjuck

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Small Business

15 SEP 2011