

PRESS RELEASE

January 10, 2012

The following is a response from Energy Power Resources Limited on the decision from Norfolk County Council (NCC) in respect of the planning application for a biomass renewable energy plant at Thetford, Norfolk:

Norfolk County Councillors have voted to refuse planning permission for a proposed 40MW Renewable Energy Plant in Thetford. The plant would have provided low carbon, renewable electricity to meet the needs of 68,500 homes. It would have used approximately 340,000 tonnes of biomass annually, with much of the fuel comprising waste wood which is currently being landfilled.

A spokesperson from the applicant and proposed operator, Energy Power Resources Limited, said: "After over 4 years of developing this particular project, we are naturally disappointed that the planning committee (Committee) has seen fit to refuse this application. We worked with several planning officers from NCC over this long period and considered and implemented a number of suggestions made by them, particularly in respect of landscaping and design. After this process, to have 'visual impact' as part of the rationale for refusal is disappointing.

This proposal would have generated reliable power and provided the county of Norfolk with a step change to meet its renewable energy targets. In addition, the proposal would have diverted significant volumes of end-of-life waste wood from landfill.

The decision by the Committee has prevented a number of green and economic benefits being delivered to Thetford and the surrounding areas. The proposal would have provided a number of major economic benefits during the build phase and throughout the life of the project. These include the very significant capital investment and the opportunity for around 40 direct long-term jobs at the new plant. In addition, the project would have brought many indirect opportunities to the area including transport and maintenance services. This is as surprising as it is disappointing given current economic conditions and the long term need for sustainable power generation.

We will now consider the options available to us and fully review the official written report of the planning committee before deciding upon the best course of action to take."

-Ends-

Notes to Editor:

Energy Power Resources Limited (EPRL)

EPRL submitted a planning application for a biomass combined heat and power (CHP) plant on land to the east of the A134 Mundford Road, north of Thetford, Norfolk.

EPRL owns and operates the existing Thetford Power Station, which has been burning biomass in the form of poultry litter since 1999. Thetford Power Station generates 38.5MW of energy and employs 36 permanent staff.

The EPRL business was established in the late 1980s and has one of the largest and most diverse portfolios of power stations generating renewable energy in the UK. EPRL own and operate five biomass fuelled power stations, which together have a combined generating capacity of 112.5MW.

EPRL's existing biomass power plants in Thetford, Ely, Eye, Westfield and Glanford burn a selection of biomass fuels including straw and poultry litter. EPRL also has a 50% share in Ovenden and Royd Moor wind farms in Yorkshire, which have a total combined capacity of 15.7MW.

For more information see www.eprl.co.uk

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