



Our Ref: General 40b – Planning Conformity/final responses/North Lincolnshire Bioethanol Plant North Killingholme  
May 10

14 May 2010

Mike Welton  
Head of Planning

By e-mail

Dear Mike

**Application Number: PA/2010/0325**

**Proposal: Application to replace an extant planning permission (PA/2006/1180 dated 02/04/2007) to erect a bioethanol plant and machinery producing 200.000 tons of ethanol per year from wheat with an associated combined heat and power plant to include administration buildings, a plant water lagoon and internal process conveyor and vehicular access off Chase Hill Road with construction related elements with landscaping and lighting.  
Land West of Power Station Access Roads to Power Stations off Chase Hill Road, North Killingholme**

The RPB is grateful for the opportunity to comment on this proposed development. The RPB has been asked to comment on this development as its nature and location mean that it could have an effect on the implementation of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The current RSS - The Yorkshire and Humber Plan was issued by the Secretary of State in May 2008. The RSS has the status of a Development Plan Document and forms part of the framework for decisions taken under section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), which means that decisions on all applications have to be taken in accordance with the Development Plan unless other material considerations indicate otherwise.

### ***Regional Planning Context***

#### *Climate Change & Renewable Energy Targets*

Policy YH2 of RSS (2008) deals with the issue of climate change and resource use. It states that plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes should increase renewable energy capacity and carbon capture. In line with these policies, the proposed development will assist in reducing carbon dioxide emissions in the region.

This policy also promotes the minimisation of resource demands from new developments. The proposed Combined Heat and Power System used to power the production will assist in implementing this policy.

Policy ENV5 of RSS (2008) sets the Humber a target of at least 124 MW by 2010 and 350 MW by 2021 for installed grid connected renewable energy capacity. Table 10.2 recommends a renewable energy target in North Lincolnshire of 54MW to 2010 and 112MW to 2021. It is noted that these are not ceiling figures and that in line with the current UK Renewable Energy Strategy there is a need to update these targets.

Policy HE1C of RSS (2008) says that the plans and strategies for the Humber Estuary sub area should work towards an increase of the renewable energy potential.

Outputs from the bioethanol plant and the proposed utilisation of a Combined Heat and Power System on site will help to implement the above policies.

Although the Yorkshire and Humber Renewable and Low Carbon Study which is currently being undertaken in accordance with recently published DECC methodology will provide a view as to the sustainability of importing biomass fuels in such large quantities and the impacts that demand for biomass has on local land use.

#### *Nature, Scale and Location*

The proposed development is located on a greenfield site, previously used for agriculture. While RSS (2008) encourages the use of brownfield land for development, it is recognised that this may not be feasible in case of the proposed development. The applicant undertook the assessment of the potential environmental impacts on the site.

In addition, Policy ENV7 of RSS (2008) identifies the provision of renewable energy as one of the appropriate non-agricultural uses of the agricultural land.

#### *Economic Considerations*

Policy E1 of RSS (2008) states that in order to create a more successful and competitive regional economy, plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes should help deliver opportunities for business relating to the Region's unique environmental assets and challenges, including sustainable construction, renewable energy, resource and waste efficiency and environmental technologies and the 'low carbon economy'.

Policy E4 of RSS (2008) supports the sustainable growth of particular regional priority clusters, which include environmental technologies, chemical and bioscience industries. The Humber has been identified as an important location for development of these clusters in RSS (2008). The proposal for bioethanol plant in North Killingholme will assist in development of these clusters.

Policy HE1 sets out the Humber Estuary sub area policy which in section C3 is concerned with an enhancement of sub area's renewable energy generation potential. In other parts, this policy emphasises an importance of developing the sub area's economy and fostering value-added port-related activities around the ports. The proposed development of bioethanol plant will be in line with these policies.

## *Transport*

Policy T1 of RSS (2008) encourages the use of lower-emission vehicles in the Yorkshire and Humber Region. The production of bioethanol could have an indirect but positive impact on the implementation of the policy.

## *Flooding*

The small part of the site is within the flood risk zone. The applicant undertook an assessment of flood risk as part of the Environmental Statement. It proved that a failure of the defence system would not pose a risk to the site.

## **Conclusion**

Given the issues set out above, it is concluded that:

- This development is **supported** in principle by the RPB as helping to implement the RSS by providing renewable energy generation and supporting growth of regional priority clusters as well as Humber Estuary economic development.
- This support in principle does not prejudice the need for issues related to the proposed development's siting, design, local access, transport impacts, landscape and ecology assessments, and compliance with environmental standards to be assessed by the decision making body.
- The Local Authority will need to be satisfied that the site selection process has been undertaken appropriately – given that the site is greenfield land.

If you have any queries about these points, please do not hesitate to contact Martin Elliot on 01924 331594.

Yours sincerely

*Mart - Elliot*

Martin Elliot  
Planning Manager

**Please note:** from 1 April 2009 officers supporting the work of the Joint Regional Board, the new Regional Planning Body, will work in LGYH; please amend your contact databases accordingly.