



3<sup>rd</sup> April 2013

WREXHAM POWER LIMITED  
SIR STANLEY CLARKE HOUSE  
7 RIDGEWAY QUINTON BUSINESS PARK  
QUINTON  
BIRMINGHAM  
B32 1AF

For the attention of Mr D Chapman  
Dear Sir

### **LETTER OF OBJECTION - TO WREXHAM POWER LIMITED PROPOSALS**

I write with extreme concern regarding the Wrexham Power Limited proposals to build a large 1200MW power station on Wrexham Industrial Estate.

I pose several questions and comments, which I would be most grateful if you could read and reply to.

These matters are of enormous, local public interest and concern to the many peoples of Bangor on Dee village (BOD) and the surrounding villages, farms and businesses, who live and work in this area and who are extremely disturbed by Wrexham Power Limiter's proposals.

### **WHO IS WPL**

**Q1** Who is WREXHAM POWER LIMITED (WPL) and what is its historical power station construction expertise?

Many people find the company name rather misleading, as it is not a power company and in no way affiliated to any power utility company e.g. Scottish Power nor is it connected with Wrexham town or local Council.

I understand WPL to be a speculative property development company mainly concerned in buying land for building houses and other property development. This of course, in itself, is not generally an unusual or illegal operation and while I am given to understand that although they may have pulled down old power stations/factories to utilise the land to build properties, they have never yet been involved in actually building a large power station.

**Q2** WPL it appears is operating in conjunction with or a subsidiary of, the property developing companies of St Modwens and Glenfinnan, major property developers. What other large power stations have WPL or these 'parent' companies been involved in building/developing?

**Q3** Glenfinnan is based in Bermuda. Why? Does this mean these companies avoid taxation from the U.K?

### **WPL's LACK OF CONSULTATION WITH AFFECTED COMMUNITIES**

WPL claim that they are "currently consulting the community on our plans" although, evidently, not in this affected area.

There is great indignation and anger in BOD that they have not been included in any consultations, meetings or have been contacted in any way by WPL.

**Q4** Why was the community of BOD and surrounding areas, farms and businesses not made aware of the first, now termed 'informal', meeting held in the adjacent village of Marchwiel

(only 3 miles away) on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012, ostensibly to acquaint any interested/affected party of the WPLs proposals?

[Q4a](#) First stage investigations and consultations were initiated as early as 2010 and were closed in 5<sup>th</sup> August 2012 without the BOD community's involvement. Why?

On investigation WPL claimed that an explanatory leaflet was issued to every BOD household. On the contrary, not a single person in this entire area received such a leaflet.

[Q4b](#) WPL then claimed it was the fault of the company they used to deliver this information. WPL were subsequently given the opportunity to re-forward information via a Bangor resident who would personally ensure that every household would have a copy delivered. To date they have not acknowledge this offer and no further information has been forthcoming from them. Why is this?

### **METHODS OF OPERATION**

[Q5](#) Why would trespass, harassment and heavy handed pressure be used with some local landowners in the first instance by using threats of Compulsory Purchase Orders for land that lies in the path of the proposed massive Pylons and cables? This is not a capability WPL has, nor is it the normal negotiating practices of bona fide utility companies, gas, electric and water.

[Q5a](#) It is noted in WPL's scoping report that misleading descriptions are used for land proposed for the pylon route corridors. These routes are mainly described as inert, closed infill sites, whereas they are in fact, attractive and vibrant wildlife sites, Special landscape sites, SSI's and Ancient Semi Natural Woodland and Wild Life Sites of County Importance. Why does WPL wrongly depict these areas as though they were unattractive, unused 'wasteland'? It is information that would surely mislead those people who have never visited the area but yet may make decisions about the Power Station Proposal.

[Q5b](#) Taken as a whole these tactics appear to be economical with the truth and a heavy-handed method steam rolling through WPL's proposals? Why would WPL do this?

### **NO STRATEGIC NEED FOR THIS SIZE POWER STATION**

**NB** There is **no** strategic requirement for such a large power plant in this area. Further, there is already a surplus of power generation in this area and for the foreseeable future. Connahs Quay Power Station, in North Wales, just 12 miles from Wrexham, produces 1400MW, which they claim is enough electrical power for at least half of the Principality of Wales.

The National Grid 7 year plan suggests that surplus in the North is consumed in the South of UK. Therefore, any greater power generation emanating from this area and delivered over these unnecessarily vast distances, apparently the main purpose of WPL proposals, would add to line loss and require further system boosting on route and nearer point of delivery. This would incur an unnecessary on cost ultimately added to our electricity bills.

The UK, Wales and not least the EU are all endeavouring to reduce CO2 emissions and minimise the overuse and waste of fossil fuels. Therefore, Wrexham is indeed, the wrong location for this scheme.

[Q6](#) What is the estimated quantity of extra gas that will be required for this venture? Is the pipeline capacity from the Marchwiel Wales Gas pipeline connection sufficient?

[Q6a](#) Will a new high pressure gas pipelines be required with all the costs, way-leaves, land purchasing, excavations, major disruption and (one hopes) making good, entail?

[Q6b](#) Will these gas pipelines be routed across more unspoiled countryside and private properties between the coast and this proposed new installation?

[Q6c](#) Construction of this type of large power station would require specialist, expert knowledge and expertise, consequently without this specialist knowledge there would be little or no chance of any short-term employment for the local people. As WPL suggested there

would be short-term employment for local people, do WPL plan to train a local workforce to take part in the construction?

[Q6d](#) Why are two routes only, the 'North and South corridors' being considered? There are other routes less controversial and less damaging to the countryside and landowners, some of these already have large pylons. These alternative routes should also be considered and be seen to be considered. When will such results be made public?

[Q6e](#) Would WPL adhere to the electricity industry's Holford rules and regulations?

[Q6f](#) Will WPL be the supplier of electricity or offer contracts to other companies/utilities as British Gas does

[Q6g](#) If the proposals were to proceed, once commissioned and on-line, I understand that this massive installation would afford employment for less than 50 employees. Is this what WPL, WCBC, Planning Officers, MP's, SOC etc. all see as a major benefit the Wrexham area?

[Q7](#) While it is recognised that there is/will shortly be an urgent, additional electrical power need across the UK, due in part to the imminent closure of several coal and nuclear power stations, (around 13 in the very near future) several of which are in the South. Surely, balancing power generation and consumption more evenly throughout the country makes good economic sense on many levels? Are WPL really living up to what they like to claim, "Putting power where it is needed most"?

[Q7a](#) Was due consideration given to investigating and reusing each of these power station sites? If this investigation did not take place, then please explain in detail why not?

[Q6b](#) These existing power station sites are in prime areas to reach large populations and have established infrastructures and connections to the National Grid with existing pylons, transmission cables, etc. Furthermore all Compulsory Purchase orders and way-leaves are already established and the necessary vast areas of countryside for pylons and cables are already utilised to this end. If these existing sites' investigations did indeed take place, have all results been made public? If so where is this information?

## **'GREEN' ISSUES**

[Q8](#) Has any consideration been given to fuelling this Power Station by biomass? The area is now very well served with road systems, therefore, what would be the cost effectiveness of using the carbon neutral biomass alternative to using fossil fuel, i.e. natural gas, after factoring in all the ancillary costs of cleaning exhaust gases and managing CO2 emissions etc that gas would entail?

WPL claim that their proposal is CHP ready. This claim is refuted by Graham Meeks, director of the CHPA, as just 'greenwash'. There has been no discussion by them regarding CHP development with any likely and adjacent large user of thermal energy to enable this option. So this claim would currently appear to be at the least, not entirely honest.

[Q9](#) What would be the reduction of carbon dioxide gas that would result from this CHP readiness?

[Q10](#) How many cooling towers will be constructed for the power station?

[Q10a](#) What is the total height of each of these structures?

[Q11](#) How many chimneys for venting waste products will there be on site?

[Q11a](#) What will be the chemical composition of these waste products?

[Q11b](#) What are the heights of all chimneys on site.

[Q12](#) What will be the height of the tallest structure on the proposed Power Station site?

## **MAJOR HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES**

**Q13** It has been noted in the press that there will be trial exploration for shale gas near to the proposed power station site. Naturally this is a very major concern of peoples living in this area. Fracking is known to cause earthquake tremors. Is this safe for people who live and work in this vicinity?

**Q13a** Another extremely perturbing health concern for many people, especially those who are parents of young children, is the detrimental effect that **Electro magnetic Radiation EMF** appears to have, particularly on young people. Several local people, some of whom happen to be in the medical profession, are extremely anxious because they are aware of the unusual clusters of rare cancers and leukaemia's that have occurred in children living in the vicinity of large Power Stations and find the prospect of living with WPL's proposals very distressful and worrying. What is WPL's comprehension of this understood 'unproven truth'?

**Q13b** Many people have further worries in relation to the constant hum from the high powered cables or the low level noise from both the gas turbines and cooling towers which can be transmitted through the ground over long distances. At what distances, in the worst case, would these structures be from human habitation, and at what distances can they not be heard or cause a nuisance or health problems?

**Q13c** What effect will the particulate fall-out from the chimneys and vapour from the cooling towers have on the surrounding food producing rural countryside? What consultations have taken place with the local population in this area and the Cheshire areas, especially downwind of these towers and chimneys?

All the preceding health issues are known to have adverse effects on the well-being of the local population, not the least from anxieties and worries connected with these concerns.

## **DEARTH OF PAST MAJOR POWER CONSUMING INDUSTRIES IN WREXHAM AREA**

**Q14** Has **any** consideration been given to the fact that this area of North Wales has, over relatively recent years, lost all of its income from major heavy industry? Industries like Coal, Steel, Monsanto Chemicals, British Gas etc. are all gone. Many industries on the Wrexham Industrial estate, in particular high power user companies such as BICC, Fiberglass, Dunlop, Firestone, Continental Can, TetraPac etc. have all gone. In this current world climate, the reality is, that it is extremely unlikely that major large industries such as these will return to North Wales, or the UK, in the foreseeable distant future, or if ever.

**Q14a** Why then do we need such an enormous power station now, when all through the main Industrial years there was always sufficient, uninterrupted power for the area?

## **THE SUBSEQUENT NEED FOR LOCALTOURISM**

In consequence of the above, any Tourism income that Bangor-on-Dee and River Dee areas can attract is becoming more and more important and necessary to many of the people who live and work here.

It is not only the majestic mountainous areas of Snowdon and the lovely seascapes of the North Wales' coast and Anglesey that benefit from Welsh Tourism.

This quiet, rural and largely unspoilt landscape of low lying, green countryside alongside the River Dee at Bangor-on-Dee, with its beautiful, ancient sandstone bridge and fine-looking, historic riverside church, currently attracts many visitors.

They come not only for the historical interest but to enjoy numerous activities. For example, walking and hiking in the countryside and exploring along the river banks, visiting Erddig, our National Trust house, just a few miles away, Dee fishing, (many fishing clubs pay for stretches of the river), bird and wild life watching, cycling clubs, touring cyclists, photography, drawing and painting, canoeing and canoe clubs, holiday makers, foreign visitors, camping and caravanning, The Plassey Leisure Park. This area is frequently used for powered hang-gliders, micro-light aircraft and hot air balloons. The basis for tourist income will no longer exist if WPL's proposals go ahead.

Bangor-on-Dee is a small, attractive, riverside village, where any visible massive pylons would not only be an eyesore but damaging to vital tourism industry.

The proposal of constructing immense, towering 50 m high heavy duty pylons locally, which would be **one and half times** higher again than the ancient village church tower of Sant Dunawds, would ruin the visual landscape. The pylons would predominate over the countryside damaging any chance of tourism along the many miles of the pylons' path for other villages, small hotels/pubs, Bed and Breakfasts, caravan parks and other tourist businesses too.

If this WPL proposal does proceed it would patently not be for the benefit of the peoples in this part of Wrexham and in particular Bangor-on-Dee, the River Dee areas and the surrounding villages.

[Q15](#) With regard to Erddig and its surrounds, have the **National Trust** been consulted in any way? What are their comments?

[Q15a](#) What are WPL's provisions to accommodate and support this local tourist industry? What discussions taken place with the **Wales Tourist Board**? What are their comments?

[Q16](#) There is a great deal of anxiety locally in relation to the very real prospect of diminution in property values, houses, shops, pubs, hotels and established tourist businesses, should this area be adjacent to massive power pylons. What compensation would be made to those affected?

[Q17](#) What provisions have been made to protect the many and various types of wide wing-span birds that live and breed on the river such as swans, wild geese, mergansers, cormorants, heron and duck particularly as they fly in at dusk and who regularly use the river, especially at nesting time?? What discussions have been held locally or with the R.S.P.B.?

There is a major local concern for this breeding wild-bird population. We have in season large swan populations on the river and in surrounding fields and already experience several accidents each year when young swans, usually on their first flights have hit the existing low pylon cables and been killed or sometimes so badly maimed, a wing completely sliced off for instance, that they had to be destroyed.

If this is the case with the existing low pylons how much more damage would the huge, proposed pylons and cables running alongside and crossing the River Dee be to flocks of these numerous large winged breeding birds?

[Q17a](#) Are WPL aware of the detrimental effects their proposals will have on wild bird populations, nesting sites and locations, wild life in general including river otters and the devastating effects any disruption will have on the local SSIs, Wildlife sites of County Importance, Special Landscape Area and Ancient Semi Natural Woodland? As ethically and morally we all have a responsibility for protecting nature around us, what do WPL see as their role in preserving the local countryside and wildlife?

This is **my Letter of Objection** to WPL's power station proposals, the sentiments of which are held by the vast majority of peoples living and working in Bangor-on-Dee.

I look forward to receiving your answers to each of these questions and your thoughts on the many and various comments made in this letter.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely

Cc's See next page

Cc's forwarded by post and e-mail where possible.

WPL

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Ed Davy S.O.S.

Tracey Williams, Planning Inspectorate

Dr Paterson, WCBC

Susan Jones, MP

Ian Lucas, MP

Neil Rogers, Leader of the Council, WCBC

WCBC Council Members

Assembly Members

MEPs

Simon Greenland. WCBC

National Trust

Welsh Tourist Board

RSPB

Bangor-on-Dee Community