

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 September 2019 22:08
To: Northampton Gateway <NorthamptonGateway@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Response to Secy of State request re air pollution

Dear Sir,

The responses by the applicants to the air pollution question are largely smoke and mirrors.

The facts are that the area around M1 Jct 15 has long been accepted by Northampton Borough Council as the worst for air pollution in the borough. A previously proposed development for the site acknowledged that the air quality at this point is already 43ugm3 which is over the safe limit of 40ugm3. The addition of many heavy lorries using this area 24 hours a day cannot do other than make the air pollution worse. Even if the developer claims many of the lorries will match Euro VI, all such lorries will add to the already bad situation. It is helpful to think of a 2 litre car engine as having a combustion chamber the size of a 2 litre bottle of milk whereas a 12 litre lorry has a combustion chamber the size of three 4 litre bottles. If the emissions of a 2 litre diesel car are considered to be a problem then how much more harmful is the effect of the emission of gases and particulates from a large number of heavy lorries.

In addition to this the other lorries visiting the site for construction purposes are not likely to be as modern. The poor existing situation is caused by traffic going north on the M1 which is usually at a standstill most afternoons and also the standstills on the A45 to and from Northampton which happen twice a day. Vehicles ticking over or moving slowly cause much more air pollution than those moving normally. The effect of the much greater traffic generated by the development will cause many more traffic blockages. The vehicles so affected will be of all sorts including older lorries, buses and cars over which the developer has no control and therefore cannot judge the level of pollution. To say the effect of the development on increasing air pollution is negligible is therefore a claim that cannot be supported by the current situation or the facts.

That the air pollution is already over the acceptable limit in this area has a harmful effect on the health in local communities.

I submitted in evidence a photo of a cream paving slab in my garden to the near north west of the M1 which had turned black after being in the garden for a year to illustrate the likely effect on people's lungs. The result of a recent planning enquiry into a Bovis housing proposal in this area required a high bund to try to lift the pollution above the houses and required the housing nearest the M1 to be moved further away, even though the houses proposed were to have no opening windows and be ventilated. The prevailing wind in this area blows from the south west which means that the villages of Collingtree and, to an extent, Wootton are in the path of that pollution. The worst effect will be on the housing in Grange Park where hundreds of people and children now live. As I stated in my evidence to the enquiry, the choice is to prevent this development or cause a severe risk of poor health through the effects of air pollution to the many people and children in this locality. My understanding is that this government committed itself to not making worse any area where air pollution was above acceptable levels. This in itself should ensure that the development is not permitted.

Yours truly,

Malcolm Brice BA, MSc.