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Elusen Cefn Gwlad Cymru

The Welsh Countryside Charity

Julie James MS
Minister for Climate Change
Welsh Government
5th Floor
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

24.03.2023

Dear Minister,

RE: DRAX - gas-fired power station

Given the Welsh Government's stated desire to get 100% of energy production in Wales from renewable sources by 2035, I am curious to your thoughts of the proposal by Hirwaun Power Limited, a subsidiary business of Drax Group, who wish to build a gas-fired power station on Hirwaun Industrial Estate in the village of Rhigos in south Wales.

The village of Rhigos, and its Industrial Estate, sits on the southern border with the Brecon Beacons National Park, the Drax site itself lies adjacent to the fresh water supply at Penderyn Reservoir.

The Hirwaun Power Station project will comprise:

A new Open Cycle Gas Turbine power peaking plant, also known as a Simple Cycle Gas Turbine, designed to provide up to 299 Megawatts of electricity.

The construction of a new underground pipeline to bring natural gas to the power generation plant from the existing National Gas Transmission System located on the east side of the A4061.

The construction of a new underground electrical connection to export electricity from the power generation plant to the existing Rhigos electricity substation.

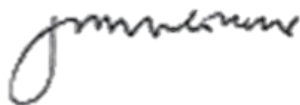
And, the construction of one stack (chimney) at the power station, up to 35 metres in height.

Given the above, are you at all concerned that the construction of yet another fossil fuel-fired power plant undermines the Welsh Government's energy targets, further undermines biodiversity in the area and potentially affect the water supply?



I would be most grateful to hear your thoughts on the matter and see if you think this development sits within the stated goals and desires of the Welsh Government? If not, would you consider calling in this development for further review?

Yours Faithfully,



Jonty Colchester
Chair
CPRW

CC.
Vikki Howells MS
Beth Winters MP
Cllrs Karen Morgan and Adam Rogers



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