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DATE

Re Ayrshire power application for coal power station at Hunterston under s36 Electricity Act.

I wish to formally object to the proposed coal (multi-fuel) power station at Hunterston and ask that the Scottish Government reject outright Ayrshire Powers planning application.

I am objecting on the following grounds:

THE APPLICATION IS INCOMPLETE

Ayrshire Power have not explained how they will either store or transport CO₂ in connection with their plans for Carbon Capture & Storage and have said that they will be applying for separate consents for this in the future. This application is therefore incomplete, as it is not possible for anyone to know from the plans how the power station will operate in practice. Therefore, since the full environmental impacts are not yet known and so this application should not have been allowed to proceed.

IMPACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE (CARBON CAPTURE REGULATIONS NOT MET)

Unless carbon capture technology can be proved to work on 100% of emissions from the outset it will make it impossible for Scotland to meet its targets for reducing CO₂ emissions as set out under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. In addition, Ayrshire Power claim that they will capture just 15% of CO₂ emissions from the outset, but even this is unproven. They have not demonstrated how they will ensure Carbon Capture and Storage on a minimum of 300MW of capacity from their first day of the operation of the power station and therefore breach regulations for carbon capture set out by Scottish/UK governments in November 2009.

NO NEW COAL STATION IS REQUIRED

Ayrshire Power have failed to establish the need for a new fossil fuel power station. In fact there is strong evidence to show that there is no impending energy gap in Scotland. Priority should be given to greener and more sustainable forms of energy, rather than dirty coal.

IMPACT ON HEALTH

The plans will have an adverse impact on public health, due to waste products, emissions, noise and air pollution. A recent Observer investigation uncovered a link between a dramatic rise in birth defects in the Punjab and pollution from coal-fired power stations. No proper assessment of the health impacts of Ayrshire Power's plans has been carried out.

IMPACT ON WILDLIFE HABITATS/LOCAL ECOLOGY

The proposed site will damage a significant part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest and an important bird habitat. The implications for wildlife/ecology of infilling part of Southannan Sands to form a new land platform and of increasing water temperature (through thermal discharge) by up to 10°C have not been properly assessed.

IMPACT ON LOCAL ECONOMY

Only 160 permanent jobs will be created. The visual impact of the plant (including its 155m high stack) combined with increased levels of noise and dust pollution will have an adverse impact on a local economy which is heavily reliant on tourism. Many more jobs will be lost than created in the long term.

LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE CANNOT COPE

Ayrshire Power's claims that no upgrades will be required for either road or rail are not plausible. The local infrastructure cannot cope with a plant of this size being built or for the need to transport 860,000 tonnes of ash/gypsum off site each year.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS

The plans will increase the amount of coal (4.6M tonnes pa) imported from countries such as Colombia where miners and communities suffer from human rights abuses and exploitation.

LACK OF CONSULTATION

Ayrshire Power's level of public consultation was totally inadequate and their claims to have consulted widely with the public not credible, (for example no direct consultation took place with the public between October 2009 and June 2010 and many areas of North Ayrshire have had no opportunity to take part in community consultation events). No opportunity was given to local people to express their views on this development prior to its inclusion in the National Planning Framework.

PARLIAMENTARY VOTE

In the Scottish Parliament on March 18th, MSPs voted by 66 votes to 26 in a motion calling on the Scottish Government to reject Ayrshire Power's plans, and Scottish Ministers should also take note of the wishes of Parliament when they come to consider this application.

I therefore ask that the Scottish Government do the sensible thing, and reject outright this planning application.

Yours sincerely

SIGNATURE

NAME