

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 15 SEPTEMBER 2016
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR (GOVERNANCE)

LAND TO THE WEST OF TEWIN ROAD, WELWYN GARDEN CITY, AL7 1HH

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES CONSENT REVOCATION ORDER

(Peartree)

1 Background

- 1.1 By virtue of Section 1 of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council is the Hazardous Substances authority for its own administrative area.
- 1.2 This matter is presented to the Development Management Committee for notification of the making of an order under Section 14 (1) of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 to revoke the Hazardous Substances Consent (HSC) at the site of two gasholders on land to the west of Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City. Revocation would be subject to confirmation by the Secretary of State.

2 Site Description

- 2.1 The site is located to the west of Tewin Road within the Welwyn Garden City employment area. The site is currently occupied by two gasholders.

3 The Proposal

- 3.1 It is proposed to revoke the Hazardous Substances Consent for the storage of gas at this site.

4 Reason for Committee Consideration

- 4.1 This matter is referred to the Development Management Committee for notification following a request from the applicant for a proposed nearby development site that the Hazardous Substances Consent be revoked. This would then enable the Council to determine that nearby planning application favourably by removing the need for a safety zone around the gas holders.

5 Analysis

- 5.1 The site is owned by National Grid and currently occupied by two gasholders. National Grid have written a letter (appendix 1) to confirm that they have not stored gas on this site since the gasholders were mothballed in August 2010. As this period is in excess of 5 years, National Grid has no objection to the Planning Hazardous Substance Consent for the site being revoked. They also state that they will not challenge such a revocation.

- 5.2 Whilst these comments are welcome, the lack of ongoing storage of gas at the site is not alone sufficient for the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to support a sensitive use such as a food store in this location. The reason for this is that, whilst an extant Hazardous Substances Consent is in place for the site, there is still considered to be sufficient reasons on safety grounds for advising against the granting of planning permission.
- 5.3 Having regard to this it is therefore necessary for the Council, as Hazardous Substances Consent Authority, to seek the revocation of the existing Consent if it wishes to see safety sensitive forms of development take place nearby.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 The site is no longer used for the storage of the hazardous substance (gas) and therefore the continuation of the Hazardous Substances Consent is no longer required.

7 Recommendation

- 7.1 That the existing Hazardous Substances Consent be revoked.
- 7.2 That Development Management Committee notes the Head of Law and Administration will prepare a Revocation Order under Section 14 of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 for the Secretary of State to confirm

Chris Carter (Strategy and Development)
Date 30 August 2016

nationalgrid



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National Gas Emergency Service - 0800 111 999* (24hrs)
*calls will be recorded and may be monitored

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18th March 2016

Dear Mr Allington

Gasholder Site, Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City

I have been asked to write to you by the Health and Safety Executive on the current status of our gasholder site at Welwyn Garden City.

National Grid has not stored gas on this site since the gasholders were mothballed in August 2010. As this period is in excess of 5 years, National Grid has no objection to the Local Authority revoking the Planning Hazardous Substance Consent for the site.

I can confirm that National Grid will not challenge the revocation of the consent.

Yours sincerely

Steve Maggs
Integrity Engineer
National Grid