



**SAVE  
RADLEY LAKES**

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## **Press Release 12 July 2007**

### **Happy Birthday, Thrupp Lake!**

#### ***Save Radley Lakes to Picket Oxfordshire County Hall Planning Meeting, Monday July 16th***

Save Radley Lakes (SRL) intends to picket the meeting of Oxfordshire County Council's planning and Regulation Committee Meeting on Monday in order to try to persuade Councillors not to grant the final permissions needed by RWE npower before they can start work on turning Thrupp Lake at Radley into a dump for ash from Didcot Power Station.

In July 2006, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) resolved to grant planning permission to RWE npower to fill Thrupp Lake with ash, on the basis of 'urgent need'. One year later, work is yet to commence on the lake! At the planning meeting on Monday 16 July, OCC seems set to approve submissions from npower relating to three conditions still outstanding on that permission. That approval would remove the last planning obstacle to npower starting work, thus leaving the Lake unprotected. Npower is expected to start work without waiting for the Town Green issue to be decided.

However SRL is mounting a legal objection, claiming that an additional Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to cover the variations in the proposed works is needed before final permission can be issued. SRL is arguing that, as some of the works proposed to meet the conditions are outside the scope and area covered by the original planning application and assessments, these works should therefore be subject to EIA, especially as they will impact ecologically sensitive areas. SRL says that, if the law were otherwise, it would be an open invitation for developers to leave out sensitive elements of schemes at the application and EIA stage, and put them in later.

Basil Crowley, chairman of Save Radley Lakes, said "Oxfordshire may be under some pressure to grant full permission to proceed with the development. However we urge them not to do so, and, in view of the potential illegality of proceeding without a full EIA covering all aspects of the Development, to defer a final decision until such an EIA has been carried out, or it is properly determined that one is not required. This would also have the advantage of allowing the Town Green application to be determined before npower are allowed to commence work. Councillors should resist the Power Station's appeals that the need is urgent. The Power Station has managed for nearly two years without Thrupp Lake, it can surely wait another couple of months, or, better still, resort to a more acceptable alternative."

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