

CAMPAIGN FOR NO GAS-FUELLED POWER STATION IN MIDSOMER NORTON

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An Open Letter to

Damian Darragh
Executive Chairman
Conrad Energy
Suites D and E Windrush Court
Blacklands Way
Abingdon OX14 1SY

Dear Mr Darragh

I am writing today on behalf of Midsomer Norton residents, schools, businesses and organisations to call on you to reconsider your plans to install three gas-fuelled power stations in Midsomer Norton, Somerset.

The reasons we object to the proposed new power station are:

1. The site is 100 metres from the nearest residence, 175 metres from Welton Primary School and 300 metres from Welton Free Rangers Forest School Nursery. The gas-fuelled power station will produce toxic emissions which will put the health of these children and other local residents and workers at risk.
2. The power station will emit 3.6 tonnes of CO₂ per hour, the equivalent of 400 cars driven at 30mph for an hour. If used at full capacity, it will increase the total current emissions in Midsomer Norton by 70%, or the same as the annual emissions from 6,700 cars. (1)
3. The proposed power station has a projected operational life of 25 years. The UK Parliament has declared a climate emergency, as has Bath & Northeast Somerset Council, whose plans to achieve net zero carbon by 2030 will be made impossible to deliver if this proposal goes ahead. During its lifetime the power station could emit up to three quarters of a million tonnes of CO₂, putting at risk the lives of children not just locally, but globally.

There is another way.

We call on you to switch to a low carbon alternative by installing energy storage units in place of the proposed gas-fuelled power station, as you have already done in three other locations in the UK. This would eliminate the risk of harm to children in the two nearby schools, as well as harm to the local community. It would also reduce the risk of long-term harm caused by global heating, and would enable you to play your part in helping national and local governments achieve their ambitions to deliver zero carbon by 2050.

And by embracing the future of energy storage units you would also be positioning yourselves with the skills and expertise needed to benefit from the massive opportunities which the future expansion of net zero carbon energy generation will bring.

Our petition gathered over 1000 signatures in less than a week. This is a campaign with huge support, locally and potentially nationally.

Please find attached:

- The No Gas-fuelled Power Station in Midsomer Norton petition.
- Letters from local residents Ms Abi Nimmo and Mrs Luisa Kozlowski
- Drawings from local children
- Photographs of the campaign launch and ongoing demonstrations
- Press coverage of the campaign so far

Please think of all our children, turn your back on fossil fuels and help safeguard the health of people and planet by being part of the transition to a clean green energy future for all.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

LIST OF SIGNATORIES

SOURCE (1) Calculations based on details from the planning application (19/04085/ful), in particular the report on the 'assessment of carbon emissions'. Publicly available data on population and <https://www.carbonindependent.org/17.html>