

From: Neil Rawlings [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:57 PM
To: planning.technical <planning.technical@westsuffolk.gov.uk>
Subject: Acorn Biodigestor at Spring Grove Farm, Withersfield

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My understanding is that Acorn have applied to build a biodigestor at Spring Grove Farm, Withersfield for the production of methane from agricultural waste, which is then to be shipped by tanker to Milton Keynes where it will be burnt for production of energy. At a time when we are all worried about global warming and the addition of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, I understand that searching for alternatives to fossil fuels is a priority. However, it does not make sense to replace one source of greenhouse gas with another. Although an increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is usually given as the cause of global warming, it should be remembered that there are other gases that cause a greater increase in global warming. One of these is methane, which is why farmers worldwide are attempting to alter the gut flora of cattle by feeding them alternatives such as sweet corn, because one of the biggest sources of methane release is from the digestive system of cattle. It seems extraordinary that anyone would be proposing to generate methane, then ship it across country, only to burn it to produce more carbon dioxide and water vapour (which is the worst greenhouse gas of them all). The risk of methane escaping while being generated, transferred or shipped must be extremely high, especially as the route to transport it will be the A1307, one of the most notorious and dangerous roads in the country. Have the costs to the environment of transporting agricultural waste to Withersfield and then transporting methane from Withersfield to Milton Keynes been taken into consideration? Both tractors and tankers will be fuelled by diesel, generating yet more greenhouse gases and pollution. This application should be rejected on the grounds that it will do more harm to the environment than the "good" that Acorn propose.

Dr Neil D. Rawlings
EMBL-European Bioinformatics Institute alumnus
34 Brybank Road, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7WD, UK
[REDACTED]

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