

Meeting Note

Status	FINAL
Author	Robert Ranger

Meeting with	Covanta Energy (CE)
Meeting date	13 September 2011
Attendees (IPC)	Mark Wilson (Case Leader) Owain George (Case Officer) Rob Ranger (Case Officer)
Attendees (non IPC)	Anne Dugdale (Covanta Energy) Julian Boswall (Burgess Salmon) Reece Emmitt (Warwick Emanuel)
Location	IPC Offices, Temple Quay House

Meeting purpose	To discuss the forthcoming site visit, and other procedural matters relating to the ongoing examination in the application for an energy for waste facility at Brig y Cwm, Cwmbargoed, Merthyr Tydfil.
------------------------	--

Summary of outcomes	<p>CE explained that they were aware of their role in facilitating access to the site and other arrangements for the accompanied site visit that is timetabled to take place in the course of the examination into the Brig Y Cwm application. They were also aware that interested parties may request to accompany the Examining authority (ExA) on that visit.</p> <p>They were seeking some indication of how many parties might be accompanying the ExA, and whether or not the ExA would set a limit.</p> <p>IPC advised that the deadline for expressions of interest in attending the site visit had not yet passed, and so it was not known how many expressions of interest would be received. If the visit is over-subscribed, it may become necessary to limit attendance; but any process for doing that will be arrived at by the ExA based on the circumstances that exist.</p> <p>The IPC have been providing advice to local action groups that the number of people able to accompany the ExA is</p>
----------------------------	--

subject to practical constraints.

CE noted that. They discussed the practical issues that arose in achieving access to the site, particularly the provision of personal protective equipment and safety briefings for those attending, given that the site is located within an ongoing minerals operation. They also raised the issue of transport provision.

IPC said that transport for the ExA would be distinct from any transport provided for other interested parties, and would be provided by the IPC to prevent any perception of partiality or bias. They also felt that a minibus or similar for interested parties would be welcome. They would work to provide CE with a guideline figure on numbers by the end of the month, and would communicate the route of the site visit to CE when the ExA make a decision on the point.

CE suggested that the Orbit Centre in Merthyr Tydfil would be the most appropriate venue for the open floor hearings that are to be held there. It has a capacity of approximately 200, which they feel would be sufficient for an open floor hearing.

Since they are responsible for providing a venue, CE has been investigating suitable venues in other areas where the ExA are likely to want to hold open floor hearings, but notes that some of these venues have a lower capacity than the Orbit Centre.

IPC agreed that a capacity of 200 was likely to be enough for open floor hearings; if a venue of approximately that capacity was not available in a location where it was felt useful to have an open floor hearing, the largest available venue in that location would have to be used. A pragmatic approach from all parties will be necessary, and it is hoped that those who are able to attend the larger venues will do so, allowing the small venues to cater to those who cannot travel.

CE are also making arrangements to provide translation for those who wish to make submissions in the Welsh language. The ExA has suggested in the past that they would prefer simultaneous translation, but sequential translation is easier to provide from a practical perspective.

IPC agree that sequential translation is easier to provide, but note that it is not suitable if large numbers of submissions are made in Welsh. They will ask the examining authority to consider which format they would prefer, in light of experiences at the preliminary and rule 6(3) meetings.

	<p>CE noted that in open floor hearings held in respect of the Rookery South Pit examination, the ExA asked that parties make their representations within time limits, that they provide copies of their notes if speaking from notes, and that the applicant was given a right of reply at the end of the hearing.</p> <p>IPC confirmed that the arrangements will be at the discretion of the ExA, who will control the hearings. They will set any time limits or make any requests for documents. (They will likely communicate these to interested parties in advance.) It is normal practice that the applicant is given a right of reply to submissions.</p> <p>Committed to sending CE an indicative route and numbers for the site visit as soon as there was any indication as to what they might be, likely by the end of the month.</p>
--	--

Circulation List	Attendees