



Meeting note

File reference	EN010007
Status	Final
Author	Hannah Pratt
Date	7 February 2017
Meeting with	Horizon – Wylfa
Venue	Temple Quay House
Attendees	Helen Lancaster – Planning Inspectorate Hannah Pratt – Planning Inspectorate Richard Kent – Planning Inspectorate Neil Burke - Horizon Nuclear Power (HNP) Matthew Bowell - HNP Sian John - Royal HaskoningDHV (on behalf of HNP) Matt Simpson - Royal HaskoningDHV (on behalf of HNP)
Meeting objectives	To discuss the Initial Stage 1 Screening Report and other HRA matters
Circulation	All attendees

Introduction

Horizon Nuclear Power (HNP) were made aware of the Planning Inspectorate's (PINS) openness policy, that any advice given will be recorded and placed on the PINS website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008)(as amended). Any advice does not constitute legal advice on which the developer or others can rely.

Summary of discussion on draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report

HNP responded to some of PINS comments on the draft HRA Screening Report (available [here](#)) and explained their proposed way forward.

Zones of influence

HNP explained that the draft HRA Screening Report submitted to PINS for comment in December 2016 was drafted on a precautionary basis. The zones of influence were based on the results of ongoing studies or advice from Natural Resources Wales (NRW). HNP anticipate that the zones of influence will reduce as a result of further work.

Discussions with NRW

HNP confirmed that they have discussed survey methodology with NRW but noted that NRW do not often explicitly agree as to levels of survey effort or specific methodologies. PINS advised HNP to provide evidence of such discussions and any agreements (as far as is possible) with the application for example by way of meeting notes and explained that this would reduce the number of examination questions.

Project description

HNP queried to what degree the project description with the HRA reports should be 'standalone' from other application documents. PINS noted that to reduce potential errors (i.e. discrepancies between documents), it may be appropriate to signpost. However it was acknowledged that this could create difficulties for NRW in commenting on any draft documents. PINS advised HNP to ensure that the parameters assessed within the HRA reports are consistent with both the Environmental Statement and the DCO.

In-combination

In response to PINS concerns that the approach to in-combination assessment had not been established within the draft HRA Screening Report, HNP explained their proposed approach is to ensure they have assessed the Wylfa Newydd nuclear project as a whole. HNP's approach will be to assess the potential effects from the main power station site and off-site associated development works (including those which can now be 'associated development' as a result of the Wales Act 2017); then look at the combined effects with the online A5025 works (which are subject to separate consent under the Town and Country Planning Act); and finally consider other plans and projects. PINS welcomed the consideration of the project as a whole however advised HNP to ensure they are clear what effects are attributable to the authorised development as defined within the DCO, so that it is clear what mitigation is required within the DCO. PINS also noted the same comment applies to the Environmental Impact Assessment.

PINS confirmed that it would expect the HRA in-combination assessment to consider the North Wales Connection as it is a reasonably foreseeable project for which a scoping report has been submitted. PINS emphasised their concerns about the length of time available to Horizon, based on current project timescales, to undertake the in-combination assessment.

Decommissioning

HNP explained that a plan would be required at time of decommissioning, therefore decommissioning would only be assessed at a high level. PINS advised HNP to satisfy themselves that they comply with case law in relation to decommissioning.

Matrices

HNP explained that they have considered a large number of European sites (including non-UK sites) as part of their screening process and noted that Appendices B and C of their draft HRA Screening Report identifies all features of each European site. HNP therefore queried whether a matrix in accordance with the Planning Inspectorate advice note ten would be required which notes every feature of each European site. PINS agreed that it would be appropriate for features where there was no pathway for effect not to be included in the matrices, provided it was made clear either in the matrices or through cross-referencing to other application documents that these features had been considered and the lack of a pathway had been clearly established.

Figures

Post meeting note: PINS can confirm that their comment at paragraph 5.2 can be disregarded further to the applicant signposting to the figures of the draft HRA Screening Report.

Ongoing work

HNP confirmed they received comments from both PINS and NRW and intend to revise the Stage 1 screening by the end of March 2017 and to produce the draft Stage 2 report by end of May 2017. PINS confirmed they would aim to comment on these draft documents, where resources allow.

HNP explained they will be holding approximately 8-10 technical workshops to progress their assessment work.

PINS agreed that it would be useful to participate in the HRA working group monthly teleconferences.

Transboundary screening

PINS confirmed that it carried out a transboundary screening under Regulation 24 of the EIA Regulations on behalf of the Secretary of State, based on the information provided within the Scoping Report and the draft HRA Screening Report. A likely significant effect on birds and marine mammals within France and the Republic of Ireland was identified; therefore these states have been notified of the scheme under Regulation 24 and have been given 6 weeks to respond to the Secretary of State to confirm whether they wish to become involved in the EIA procedure for the scheme. If they respond positively, the Secretary of State will consult with these States if the application is accepted for examination.

The duty on the Secretary of State to consider the potential transboundary impacts under Regulation 24 is ongoing until a decision is made, and further notification and consultation may take place should further information come to light.

PINS explained it has also drawn the scheme to the attention of those countries that are signatories to the Espoo Convention and also to the Crown Dependencies.

HNP explained that by the time of application, they expect to be able to rule out a likely significant effect on France and Ireland further to refining the zones of influence and refining their assessment. PINS confirmed that it would consider the approach should the Secretary of State agreed with their conclusions.

Actions

- HNP to invite PINS to the working group teleconferences (to be held monthly).
- HNP to send revised draft HRA Screening Report to PINS by end March 2017; PINS to comment if resources allow.
- HNP to send revised draft Stage 2 HRA Report to PINS by end May 2017; PINS to comment if resources allow.
- PINS to confirm approach to transboundary consultation and notification should a likely significant effect be ruled out at a later stage.