

## Meeting Note

<b>File reference</b>	<b>Fieldes Lock Rail-Linked Power Station</b>
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Oliver Blower</b>

<b>Meeting with</b>	<b>Veolia Environmental Services</b>
<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>Monday 7 November (11:00 – 13:15)</b>
<b>Attendees (IPC)</b>	<b>Jessica Potter</b> (Senior Case Officer) <b>Chris White</b> (Case Officer) <b>Rebecca Pong</b> (Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor) <b>Alison Down</b> (EIA and Land Rights Advisor) <b>Tim Hallam</b> (IPC Lawyer) <b>Robert Hanson</b> (IPC Lawyer) <b>Oliver Blower</b> (Case Officer)
<b>Attendees (non IPC)</b>	<b>Tim Leinster</b> (Veolia Environmental Services) <b>Andy Milsted</b> (Veolia Environmental Services) <b>Andrew Wooddisse</b> (URS Scott Wilson) <b>Tom Parrish</b> (URS Scott Wilson) <b>Steve Pearce</b> (URS Scott Wilson)
<b>Location</b>	IPC Offices, Temple Quay House

<b>Meeting purpose</b>	Introductory meeting with Veolia to discuss proposed NSIP application for a rail-linked power station in Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire.
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<b>Summary of key points discussed and advice given</b>	<p><b>IPC openness policy: protocol for meeting notes and exchange of information:</b></p> <p><b>The IPC</b> advised on its openness policy, that any advice given will be recorded and placed on the IPC's website under s.51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) and also to note that any legal advice given under s.51 does not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) can rely.</p> <p><b>The IPC</b> clarified that it can not discuss the merits of a case but can advise on procedural matters.</p> <p><b>Introduction to the project:</b></p> <p><b>Veolia</b> explained that the proposed power station is their intended solution for the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) fuel use contract. The NLWA has invited contract bids for a period of 25</p>
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	<p>years (with two further opportunities to extend the period by 5 years, equating to a potential period of up-to 35 years).</p> <p><b>Veolia</b> confirmed that they have submitted their Detailed Solution bid to NLWA. Veolia expect to be notified in January 2012 if they are invited through to the final stage of the procurement (Call for Final Tender). The Preferred Bidder is expected to be appointed by late 2012, and the contract signed in about March 2013.</p> <p><b>Veolia</b> explained that to meet the service commencement date of 2016 set out by NLWA, and factoring in an approximately 3-year build time, it is necessary for them to submit their application in advance of the decision to award. Veolia also confirmed that going forward with the project may be dependent on winning the NLWA contract.</p> <p><b>The Proposal</b></p> <p><b>Veolia</b> informed the IPC that the site is an existing industrial site with planning permission for aggregates operations. Veolia intend to lease the site on a long term basis. The access road to the site is not an adopted highway.</p> <p><b>Veolia</b> explained that the proposal is to develop a rail-linked power station that will generate electricity from a combination of natural gas and solid recovered fuel (SRF). The power station will handle approximately 320,000 tonnes of SRF a year (at a calorific value of 13 mj/kg). About 90% of the SRF will be delivered by rail and the remainder will be delivered by road.</p> <p><b>Veolia</b> explained that NLWA have given a range of specifications for the SRF, and that water content, calorific value and tonnage of the SRF may vary within specified ranges.</p> <p>It is noted that the proposed power station will generate low carbon and renewable electricity to be supplied to the National Grid. The total power generated will be approximately 52MW.</p> <p><b>Veolia</b> explained that the SRF will primarily be brought to the site by rail in sealed containers (equating to approximately two 20-wagon trains per day), and taken by crane from the rail siding into an indoor holding bunker held at negative atmospheric pressure to contain odours.</p> <p>Up to around 32,000 tonnes of SRF or similar material may be brought to the site by road. This SRF would be transported in bulkers and would be tipped in a dedicated tipping hall and into a dedicated bunker. In the unusual event of rail disruption, lorries may deliver all the SRF to the site for limited periods. In this instance the SRF would be transported (hauled by HGVs) in the same sealed containers as used for rail transfer, and would be unloaded using the rail unloading mechanism.</p> <p>Where possible, bottom ash produced by the proposed power</p>
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station will be transported off site via the same rail siding, to be processed and disposed of elsewhere.

The SRF bunker will have a working storage capacity of 5 days up to hydraulic level, with additional capacity for a further 1.5 to 2 days. The lorry-fed SRF bunker will have a capacity of 0.5 days. The site can hold up to a maximum of 10 days worth of SRF in total including storage of sealed containers in the loading area (for a period of no longer than 48 hours).

The SRF will be burnt in conjunction with natural gas to improve efficiency. There are two possible sources of natural gas; option one (the preferred option) would take gas from the high pressure network supplying the existing adjacent Rye House power station run by Scottish Power. Option 2 would involve connecting to the local medium pressure network near the roundabout between Ratty's Lane and Essex Road. Veolia informed that option 2 may require approximately 2 km of existing pipeline to be upgraded.

The size of the proposed stack has yet to be confirmed, since this is subject to on-going modelling work and consultation with the Environment Agency, but Veolia envisage a stack height at or slightly above the height of the existing power station stacks (approximately 75 meters). Veolia are in contact with the Environment Agency regarding this, and other relevant matters relating to the project.

The proposed power station building will be approximately 40 meters in height. It will be of steel frame construction with part polycarbonate skin of various colours, part wood cladding and part steel mesh. The steel mesh surrounding the loading area will be approximately 25 meters in height.

The site is classified by broad Environment Agency mapping as being in flood zone 3. A Flood Risk Assessment is in production. This will identify appropriate flood storage measures and the Environment Agency will be consulted on this matter. A sustainable drainage system is proposed that would supply water to be treated and used for steam production.

#### **Project Plan Overview:**

It is noted that **Veolia** intend to request a scoping opinion with a revised site boundary by the end of the week (11 November). If a scoping opinion could be provided by the end of 2011 information from the Opinion would be fed into the Phase 2 consultation. **The IPC** suggested that Veolia may wish to submit the scoping report as soon as possible in view of the time pressure placed on the Consultees before/during the Christmas holiday period and the implication on the speed/quality of the consultation responses.

After taking into consideration any responses to their consultation, Veolia intend to formally submit their application to the IPC around June 2012. **The IPC** informed Veolia that their projected

submission date would be published on the IPC's website.

**The IPC** explained that, subject to the enactment of the Localism Bill, the relevant Secretary of State will have an additional 3 months after the end of the six month examination and three month recommendation periods in which to decide whether or not to grant consent based on the IPC's recommendation.

**The IPC** suggested that the draft Development Consent Order (DCO), and other draft application documents such as the Explanatory Memorandum and Works and Land Plans, should be submitted as soon as possible and well before the submission of the application.

**Consultation Strategy and Programme, including activity to-date and compatibility with the Planning Act 2008:**

**Veolia** reported that they had already carried out some informal, non-statutory consultation including writing to local Ward Councillors and site neighbours, and setting up a project website and telephone helpline. They propose two phases to their formal consultation: Phase 1 of the consultation under section 42 and 47 of the 2008 Act is projected to start on the 17 November 2011 for 4 weeks to the 16 December. Veolia then envisages commencement of Phase 2 of their consultation in early 2012.

**Veolia** explained that Phase 1 of their s.42 consultation would involve consulting all statutory consultees. Veolia intend to publish their statement of community consultation (SoCC) at this time. They were aware that the SoCC must state how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information (PEI) (Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2009). Veolia intend to post project leaflets to the surrounding community, organise drop-in exhibitions locally, and briefing sessions for local authorities, residents and others.

Phase 2 consultation will begin approximately 8 weeks after the close of Phase 1. However, Veolia indicated that, in the interests of fairness, they would still consider representations received during the 8 week break period.

**Veolia** intended to consult on the PEI as part of their Phase 2 consultation. They will try to provide as much information at that stage as possible but that some elements will not be complete until summer 2012. Phase 2 would represent a second opportunity for parties to comment and will be conducted following the same process as Phase 1.

Veolia confirmed that they have already talked to and formally consulted Hertfordshire and Broxbourne Councils on their draft SoCC and had also sent copies to Essex, Epping Forest and East Herts Local Authorities, and Lea Valley Park Authority. The authorities have not yet responded.

**Veolia** have produced a briefing note aimed at immediate neighbours and local councillors to keep them informed of the project.

**The IPC** confirmed that a Regulation 9 list of consultees will be provided to Veolia following the receipt of a Regulation 6 notification and the provision of a shapefile, which could assist them in drawing up their own s.42 consultation list. The IPC advised that the Regulation 9 lists are prepared for the purposes of IPC scoping, and developers must ensure that their consultation sufficiently meets the requirements of the legislation. It was recommended to Veolia that they familiarise themselves with IPC Advice Note 3 (accessible from the IPC website).

**IPC** reminded Veolia that the IPC needs to be formally notified under section 46 of the Act and under Regulation 6(1) of the EIA Regulations on or before they commence section 42 consultation.

**Environmental Impact Assessment Programme, including activity to-date and compatibility with Planning Act 2008:**

**Veolia** recognised that some of the likely proposed associated development (electricity and gas connection) lies outside the site boundary as currently shown on the plan provided to the IPC. Veolia stated they were unsure how to proceed with the site boundary given that there are two possible locations for connecting to natural gas supplies and the location of the electricity connection was not yet finalised. In particular, Veolia enquired whether the potential area of works required for electricity and gas connection at Ratty's Road roundabout should be included within the site boundary.

**Veolia** confirmed that an electricity grid connection will form part of the proposed development. The connection is envisaged to be at a substation within the local industrial estate and the connection route would travel along Ratty's Lane. Veolia cannot connect to the existing Rye House power station connection as it uses 400 KVA which is not compatible with the proposal. Veolia said that the cable connection will be under-grounded, and that there would be no need for the existing 132Kv transformer to be strengthened.

**The IPC** advised that the site boundary shown on the plan submitted with the Regulation 6 notification and Regulation 8 request will need to be drawn in a manner that reflects the project descriptions and accommodates different utility connection options where appropriate. For the purpose of the DCO application, developers must ensure that a robust EIA development proposal has been carried out. Further advice on how to address flexibility in the DCO application can be found in the IPC Advice Note 9 – Rochdale Envelope.

The IPC acknowledged that the site boundary may change as the project is refined, although Veolia would need to satisfy themselves that they had complied with the pre-application consultation and

publicity requirements under the 2008 Act. Veolia would need to be satisfied that all those works, areas and structures for which they needed development consent, including temporary works areas and structures, were included within the order limits.

**The IPC** informed Veolia that the 2008 Act requires developers as a minimum, to provide a plan that identifies the application site for the purposes of the Regulation 6 notification and Regulation 8 request. IPC Advice Note 7 – EIA, Screening Scoping further considers that this plan should *“include a ‘red line boundary’ defining the Site and areas of ancillary/associated development”*. Veolia may wish to show the various options for gas connections on a separate plan(s) using different coloured outlines or shading, and indicate on the plan(s) how the potential connection routes relate to the site boundary.

**The IPC** advised that Veolia will need to determine whether the gas connection works were an NSIP in their own right or might be covered by permitted development rights. Veolia would also need to clarify whether any works that National Grid may be required to undertake will be included within the DCO application or be separately consented.

Under Regulation 6 (1)(a) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, a grid connection and gas supply connection statement will need to be provided as part of the DCO application. However, this information is not required for the purposes of the Regulation 6 notification and Regulation 8 request.

**Veolia** informed the IPC that the proposed power plant would be Combined Heat and Power (CHP) ready, however a CHP connection network would not be included in the proposal, and confirmed that this will be clarified in the revised Scoping Report.

**The IPC** informed Veolia that members of the case team and the EIA team would find beneficial a visit to the site at some point in the future. **Veolia** informed IPC that the site is currently a working minerals storage facility run by another company. The owners will need to be given at least two weeks notice for site inspections. Standard safety equipment such as high visibility jackets, helmet and work boots will need to be worn on the site. **Veolia** offered to organise the site visit and will await suggested dates from the IPC.

#### **AOB – Next Meeting:**

**IPC** informed Veolia that, if required, it will organise an inception meeting with the relevant local authorities (and possibly the Environment Agency) to discuss IPC procedures.

**Veolia** confirmed that they will share their list of contacts with the IPC to facilitate meeting arrangements. They also informed the IPC that they intend to slightly modify the title of the project and will shortly notify the IPC of this.

	<p><b>Veolia</b> requested that the site boundary, description of the proposed development and the 'Rochdale envelope' approach form part of the agenda for the next meeting with the IPC.</p> <p><b>Veolia</b> will suggest meeting dates in due course.</p> <p>The following points of contact were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris White for the IPC</li> <li>• Andrew Wooddisse (of URS Scott Wilson) for Veolia</li> </ul>
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<b>Specific decisions/ follow up required?</b>	n/a
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<b>Circulation List</b>	Attendees