



Meeting note

File reference	EN010087
Status	Final
Author	Siân Evans
Date	5 September 2017
Meeting with	Vattenfall
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Chris White (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Siân Evans (Case Officer) Richard Kent (Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor) Katherine King (EIA and Land Rights Advisor) Vattenfall Helen Jameson Joanna Clements
Meeting objectives	Thanet Extension project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Introduction

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate outlined its openness policy and ensured those present understood that any issues discussed and advice given would be recorded and placed on the Inspectorate's website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the Applicant (or others) can rely.

Project update

The Applicant advised that they have submitted a Project Identification Approval (PIA) application for Agreement for Lease (AfL) to The Crown Estate (TCE), following TCE consultation on criteria for award of rights to develop extensions to existing projects earlier in 2017. The Applicant hopes to have the AfL in place before the Development Consent Order (DCO) application is submitted to the Inspectorate.

The Applicant advised that they have received a connection offer for 2021 from National Grid and they are currently reviewing this.

The Applicant stated that they are reviewing the project design and the maximum capacity that may be achieved through fewer, taller turbines. The Applicant advised that they will assess the environmental effects on a worst case scenario. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to make clear in the DCO that they will not be using a mix of different height/ capacity turbines.

The Applicant explained that the cable landfall is currently proposed to be at the southern end of Pegwell Bay. Where the route goes over landfill the cable is proposed to be laid on the surface and buried under a bund (similar to the Nemo Link Interconnector which also traverses the Pegwell Bay Country Park). The Applicant's current proposals include a substation at Richborough Port and a 400kV underground connection to the National Grid substation at Richborough Energy Park.

The Applicant advised that two options for the near-shore cable route will be included in the DCO due to possible issues with cable crossings in proximity to Ramsgate Harbour, unexploded ordnance risk and the recent availability of additional data from the Nemo Link project. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to justify this approach in their application. The Inspectorate further advised that the Applicant would be likely to need to provide evidence to the Examining Authority that they have permission from The Crown Estate to use both route options.

The Applicant advised that the National Trust are a landowner however the National Trust are deferring engagement in the process until Kent Wildlife Trust have resolved their concerns regarding the Stonelees SSSI.

The Applicant has sent a draft Statement of Community Consultation to the local authorities. A copy will also be sent to the Inspectorate who agreed to review this. The Applicant is intending to start statutory consultation at the end of October/ early November for 5 – 6 weeks.

The Applicant confirmed that they will send their s46 notification to the Inspectorate at the same time as commencing their s42 consultation. The Inspectorate agreed that this could be sent electronically.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider their timetable for submission if draft documents are to be sent to the Inspectorate. At least six weeks should be allowed for the Inspectorate to review documents and arrange a face-to-face meeting and feedback.

Evidence Plan

The next Evidence Plan meeting is on 3 and 4 October, where the design will be looked at with consultees. The Applicant agreed to hold a further Steering Group meeting which the Inspectorate could attend if appropriate. This is likely to be mid-October.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

It was agreed to cancel the next teleconference arranged for 3 October.

The Applicant will send plans of their proposals to the Inspectorate.