



Meeting note

File reference	EN010084
Status	Final
Author	Ewa Sherman
Date	17 November 2017
Meeting with	Vattenfall
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Chris White - Infrastructure Planning Lead Ewa Sherman - Case Officer Katherine King - EIA and Land Rights Advisor Vattenfall Helen Jameson – Project Manager Joanna Clements – Associate Project Manager
Meeting objectives	Thanet Extension project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Introduction

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and stated 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.

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Applicant provided an update regarding preparation of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) ahead of the statutory consultation period due to commence on 27 November 2017 and to end on 12 January 2018, and advised that a newsletter has been sent to the local community. Also, the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has been published. The PEIR will be accompanied by a fifty-page Non-Technical Summary document. The Applicant will provide all electronic consultation documents sent to the consultees to the Inspectorate.

The Applicant continues to work on the options within the design envelope, the current onshore cable route from landfall to the onshore substation would involve crossing Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve and Pegwell Bay Country Park. The proposed offshore route has not changed but two onshore options within the Country

Park are still being considered. Descriptions of both onshore routes will be included in the PEIR; however, only one option will remain when an application is submitted to the Inspectorate. Additionally, the Applicant stated that there is a possibility that other refinements to onshore and offshore boundaries may follow section 42 consultation feedback.

The Applicant advised that minutes of the recent meeting of the Evidence Plan Steering Committee will be available online.

The Applicant stated that The Crown Estate (TCE) publicised opening for the expression of interest regarding a round of leasing opportunities for extensions to existing offshore wind developments. A Project Identification Approval application has been submitted by the Applicant and they now await a decision from TCE on whether to accept. If the PIA application is accepted, the Applicant hopes to receive draft documents from TCE shortly after this and have an Agreement for Lease for the Proposed Development in place by February 2018 at the earliest, at latest before the submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

The Applicant advised that they have received an updated connection offer (an Agreement to Vary) from the National Grid to enable them to connect 272MW from April 2021 (current connection agreement is for a connection in April 2027). In discussion with National Grid, the Applicant will then consider its options for increasing agreed capacity to a maximum of 340MW.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider allowing time for a review of the draft documents. A full review of draft documents by the Inspectorate takes about 6 to 8 weeks, but this depends on the number of documents and the particular issues raised. The Applicant confirmed their intention to use this service. The Inspectorate also advised of the possibility to review the draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The Applicant would welcome this opportunity.

The Inspectorate also suggested looking at the document called 'Guide to the Application' which was provided by National Grid for the Richborough Connection Project and was updated at each Examination deadline. It can be found here: [Guide to the Application](#). The Inspectorate has been advising Applicants at pre-application stage to produce and include a 'Guide to the Application' with the application documents at submission, and to update it at every examination deadline as it has proved to be very useful to the Examining Inspectors and Interested Parties in past examinations. Other good example documents can be found on our website at the link here: [Good example documents](#)

The project is on track to be submitted in the Q2 of 2018.

Specific decisions / follow up required

It was agreed to cancel the teleconference on 5 December 2017. Instead the next meeting will be held following completion of the statutory consultation.

The Inspectorate will update the Applicant in terms of the review of the draft HRA that can be offered.