National Infrastructure Planning Temple Quay House 2 The Square Bristol, BS1 6PN Customer 0303 444 5000

Services:

e-mail: ImminghamOCGT@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and Other Persons

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010097

Date: 10 July 2019

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 – Section 88 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 6 etc

Application by VPI Immingham B Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the VPI Immingham OCGT Project

Notice of appointment of the Examining Authority and date, time and place of the Preliminary Meeting

I write to you following my appointment by the Secretary of State as the Examining Authority (ExA) to carry out an examination of the above application.

A copy of the appointment notice can be viewed at: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-east/vpi-immingham-ocqt/?ipcsection=docs

I would like to thank those of you who submitted Relevant Representations. These representations have assisted me when preparing my proposals regarding how to examine this application.

Invitation to the Preliminary Meeting

This letter is an invitation to the Preliminary Meeting to discuss the Examination procedure. It contains a number of important supporting annexes.

Date of meeting: Thursday 8 August 2019

Seating available from: 09.30am Meeting begins: 10.00am

Venue: The Royal Suite, The Humber Royal Hotel,

Littlecoates Road, Grimsby, South Humberside

DN34 4LX



Access and parking:

Full disabled access. Free parking (100 spaces) is available at the hotel. The venue is accessible by public transport, Grimsby Town train station is a mile away and the nearest bus stop is 100m from the venue.

Note: Given the volume and frequency of letters the Planning Inspectorate needs to send to Interested Parties during an Examination, we aim to communicate with people by email wherever possible as electronic communication is more environmentally friendly and cost effective for the Inspectorate as a government agency. If you have received a postcard but are able to receive communications by email, please confirm this with the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter, as soon as possible.

Purpose of the Preliminary Meeting

The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting is to enable views to be put to me about the way in which the application is to be examined. At this stage I am looking at the procedure and not the merits of the application. The merits of the application will only be considered once the Examination starts; which is after the Preliminary Meeting has closed.

I wish to run a fair, efficient and effective meeting so that all relevant views can be heard. As such, I strongly encourage groups of individuals who have similar views on the procedure to choose one representative to speak for the group.

The agenda for the meeting is at **Annex A**. This has been set following my Initial Assessment of Principal Issues arising from my reading of the application documents and the Relevant Representations received. That assessment is set out in **Annex B**. As a result of this assessment I wish to hear at the meeting from the Applicant, Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and local authorities where they consider changes may be needed to the draft Examination Timetable set out in **Annex C**.

Up-to-date information about the project and the Examination can be obtained from: ImminghamOCGT@planninginspectorate.gov.uk. This is the address for the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website, from which the Planning Inspectorate will make copies of all Examination Documents available to the public. As the Examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful for you to become familiar with this resource.

Attendance at the Preliminary Meeting

If you wish to attend the Preliminary Meeting please contact the Case Manager, Tracey Williams using the details set out at the top of this letter. Please confirm this **no later than Thursday 1 August 2019**.

It will help the management of the meeting and benefit everyone if as part of the above confirmation you also:

• Tell us whether you wish to speak at the meeting and on which agenda items (Annex A), listing points you wish to make; and



 Notify us of any special requirements you may have (eg disabled access, hearing loop etc).

The Preliminary Meeting provides a useful introduction to the Examination process. I will use it to make Procedural Decisions that will affect everyone participating in the Examination. The meeting provides you with an opportunity to have your say about procedural issues before these decisions are finalised. If you intend to play an active part in the Examination or you have questions about procedure it is useful to attend the meeting.

Advice Note 8.3 provides further information, and is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website at:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Advice-note-8-3v4.pdf

However, please note that **you are not required to attend the Preliminary Meeting in order to participate in the Examination**. If you are an Interested Party, you will still be able to make a Written Representation and comments on the Written Representations made by other Interested Parties. You will also be able to participate in any hearings that are arranged.

Further information is given in Advice Note 8.4 which is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website at:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Advice-note-8-4v3.pdf

Should you no longer wish to be an Interested Party and do not wish to be involved in the Examination process, you can notify the Case Team of this in writing.

After the Preliminary Meeting

After the Preliminary Meeting you will be sent a letter setting out the finalised Examination Timetable. An audio recording and a note of the meeting will also be published on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

Interested Parties have the right to request an Open Floor Hearing and those persons affected by any request for Compulsory Acquisition or Temporary Possession of their land or rights may request a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing. Any other Issue Specific Hearings are held at the discretion of the Examining Authority and will be arranged if I feel that consideration of oral representations would ensure an issue is adequately examined.

My Examination will comprise of Written Representations about the proposal and oral representations made at any hearings, in addition to consideration of the application documents, policy and legal positions, site inspections and any other matters I consider to be relevant and important.

All relevant and important matters will be taken into account when I make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, who will take the final decision in this case.



Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

In addition to the Preliminary Hearing notified above, I have made some further Procedural Decisions that includes requests for Statements of Common Ground, and the acceptance into the Examination of an updated Application document from the Applicant (Book of Reference). These are set out in full at **Annex E**.

Your status in the Examination

You have received this letter because you fall within one of the groups described in this FAQ document: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Status-faq.pdf

If your reference number begins with 2001, IMMI-AFP or IMMI-s57 you are in Group A. If your reference number begins with IMMI-SP you are in Group B. If your reference number begins with IMMI-OP you are in Group C.

If having read the FAQ document published at the link above you are still unsure about your status, please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Award of costs

I also draw your attention to the possibility of the award of costs against Interested Parties who behave unreasonably. You should be aware of the relevant costs guidance 'Awards of costs; examinations of applications for development consent orders' which applies to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. This guidance is available at: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/guidance/

Management of information

The Planning Inspectorate has a commitment to transparency. Therefore, all information submitted for this project (if accepted by the Examining Authority) and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate, is published at:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/North%20East/VPIImmingham-OCGT/

All Examination Documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex D**.

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair Examination, I consider it necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how we handle your personal information, please view our <u>Privacy Notice</u>.

I look forward to working with all parties in the examination of this application.

Yours faithfully



Rory Cridland

Rory Cridland Examining Authority

Annexes

- A Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting
- **B** Initial Assessment of Principal Issues
- **C** Draft Examination Timetable
- **D** Availability of Examination Documents
- **E** Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

This communication does not constitute legal advice. Please view our <u>Privacy Notice</u> before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.



Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting

Date: Thursday 8 August 2019

Seating available from: 09:30am

Meeting start time: 10:00am

Venue: The Royal Suite, The Humber Royal Hotel,

Littlecoates Road, Grimsby, South

Humberside DN34 4LX

9.30am	Seating available	
Item 1 (10.00am)	Welcome and introductions	
Item 2	The Examining Authority's (ExA's) remarks about the examination process	
Item 3	Initial Assessment of Principal Issues – see Annex B	
Item 4	Draft Examination Timetable – see Annex C Deadlines for submission of: • Written Representations • Local Impact Reports (LIRs) • Responses to the ExA's Written Questions • Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) • Statements of Commonality of SOCG • The Compulsory Acquisition Schedule • Notifications relating to hearings • Procedural requests relating to these items that have been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in advance of the Preliminary Meeting or by Thursday 1 August 2019	
Item 5	 Draft Examination Timetable – see Annex C Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI): Date of ASI to application site and surrounding area Date of Issue Specific Hearing on draft Development Consent Order Date reserved for Open Floor Hearing(s) Time period reserved for Issue Specific Hearings Time period reserved for Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s) Procedural requests relating to these items that have been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in advance of the Preliminary Meeting or by Thursday 1 August 2019. 	

Annex A

Item 6	Any remaining submissions not set out in the agenda that have been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in advance of the Preliminary Meeting or by Thursday 1 August 2019 Availability of Palacent Pages and application decreases	
Item 7	Availability of Relevant Representations and application documents – see Annex D	
Item 8	8 Any other matters	
Close of the Preliminary Meeting		

Please note: Please be available from the start and throughout the meeting. The agenda is subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. The ExA will conclude the meeting as soon as all relevant contributions have been made. If there are any additional matters to be dealt with or submissions take a considerable amount of time the ExA may change the order of the agenda items and may introduce breaks in the proceedings.

Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

This is the initial assessment of the Principal Issues arising from consideration by the Examining Authority (ExA) of the application documents and Relevant Representations received. It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of all relevant matters; regard will be had to all important and relevant matters in reaching a recommendation after the Examination is concluded.

A number of the Principal Issues set out below have an interrelationship and overlap and this will be reflected in the Examination. The Principal Issues are listed in alphabetical order and should not be taken to imply an order of importance.

The policy and consenting requirements and documents associated with the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) are an integral part of the Examination and are therefore not set out as separate Principal Issues. Furthermore, it should also be noted that whilst the effects of the proposal on (i) the achievement of sustainable development including the mitigation of, and adaption to, climate change and (ii) the effects of the proposal in relation to human rights and equalities duties are not listed as specific Principle Issues the ExA will conduct all aspects of the Examination with these objectives in mind.

Compulsory Acquisition, including issues related to:

- The need for the land to be subject to compulsory acquisition
- The need to establish a compelling case in the public interest
- Financial arrangements

Design & Layout, including issues related to:

• The design of the power station and associated development

Development Consent Order (DCO), including issues related to:

- Powers acquired through the DCO
- Requirements
- Protective provisions
- Relationship with other Development Consent Orders

Economic and Social Impacts, including issues related to:

- The effect on the local economy and employment during construction and operation
- The effect on surrounding communities including on businesses and nearby residents, during construction and operation

Environmental Impact Assessment, including issues related to:

- The assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development
- Cumulative impacts
- Mitigation measures

Environmental Issues including issues related to:

- Airborne emissions and air quality, including potential cumulative impacts
- Water quality and flooding
- Landscape and visual impacts
- Ground conditions
- Noise, lighting, dust and vibration

Habitats, Ecology and Nature Conservation, including issues related to:

- Effects on European and other protected sites and species
- •Effects on habitats and on biodiversity

Historic Environment, including issues related to:

• Effects on designated and non-designated heritage assets

Infrastructure including issues related to:

- Effects on existing transmission and distribution facilities
- Effects on other infrastructure
- Environmental permits
- Operational effects including the height and location of the proposed stack

Transport and Traffic, including issues related to:

- Construction traffic movement
- Road safety

Immingham OCGT timetable for Examination of the application

The Examining Authority (the ExA) is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

The examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at Hearings.

Item	Matters	Due Dates
1	Preliminary Meeting	10:00am
		Thursday 8
		August 2019
2	Issue by the Examining Authority (ExA) of:	Thursday 15 August 2019
	Examination Timetable	
	• The ExA's Written Questions	or as soon as practicable following the Preliminary Meeting
3	Deadline 1	Thursday 29
	Deadline for the receipt of:	August 2019
	 Notification of wish to speak at the Issue Specific Hearing on the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) 	
	 Notification of wish to speak at the Issue Specific Hearing on Environmental Matters 	
	 Notification of wish to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) 	
	 Notification of wish to speak at an Open Floor Hearing (OFH) 	
	 Notification of wish to attend an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI), suggested locations and justifications 	
	 Notification by Statutory Parties and certain Local Authorities who wish to be considered as an Interested Party 	

	Notification of wish to have future correspondence electronically	
4	Time reserved for issue by the ExA:	Tuesday 3
	Any notification of hearings	September 2019
5	Deadline 2	Wednesday 18
	Deadline for receipt of:	September 2019
	Comments on Relevant Representations (RRs)	
	Written Representations (WRs)	
	Summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words	
	Local Impact Reports (LIRs) from any local authorities	
	Responses to the ExA's Written Questions	
	Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) requested by the ExA	
	Statement of Commonality of SoCG	
	Applicant's Guide to the Application	
	The Compulsory Acquisition (CA) Schedule	
	Comments on any additional submissions	
6	Accompanied Site Inspection	Tuesday 1 October 2019
7	Open Floor Hearing	Tuesday 1 October 2019
	Date reserved to hold an OFH (if required)	
		(Evening)
8	Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1)	Wednesday 2 October 2019
	ISH1 into the draft DCO	(Morning)
9	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH)	Wednesday 2
	Date reserved to hold a CAH (if required)	October 2019
1.0		(afternoon)
10	Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2)	Thursday 3

	ISH2 into environmental matters to include Ecology.	October 2019
11	Deadline 3	Thursday 10 October 2019
	Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:	October 2019
	Comments on WRs and responses to comments on RRs	
	Comments on LIRs	
	Comments on responses to the ExA's First Written Questions	
	Revised draft DCO from the Applicant	
	Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case	
	Responses to any further information requested by the ExA	
12	Publication by the ExA of:	Thursday 24
	The ExA's Further Written Questions (if required)	October 2019
13	Date reserved for issue by the ExA of:	Wednesday 6
	Any notification of hearings (if required)	November 2019
14	Deadline 4	Thursday 14 November 2019
	Deadline for receipt of:	November 2019
	Responses to the ExA's Further Written Questions (if required)	
	Comments on Applicant's revised draft DCO (if required)	
	Responses to any further information requested by the ExA	
	Comments on Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case	
15	Date reserved for Issue Specific Hearings or Accompanied Site Inspection (if required)	Wednesday 4 December 2019
16	Date reserved for Issue Specific Hearings or Accompanied Site Inspection (if required)	Thursday 5 December 2019

17	Deadline 5	Thursday 12 December 2019
	Deadline for receipt of:	December 2019
	Comments on responses to the ExA's Further Written Questions (if required)	
	Applicant's revised draft DCO	
	Responses to further information requested by the ExA	
	 Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case 	
18	Deadline 6	Thursday 2
	Deadline for receipt of:	January 2020
	Comments on the Applicant's draft DCO (if required)	
	Responses to further information requested by the ExA	
19	Publication by the ExA of:	Friday 3 January
	Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) (If required)	2020
20	Deadline 7	Friday 31
	Deadline for receipt of:	January 2020
	Comments on the REIS (if submitted)	
21	Time reserved for issue by the ExA of:	Friday 1
	Any further information requests under Rule 17 (if required)	February 2020
22	Deadline 8	Thursday 6
	Deadline for receipt of:	February 2019
	 Responses to comments on the Applicant's draft DCO (if required) 	
	Responses to comments on the RIES	
	Responses to further information requested by the ExA	

	 Final SoCG Final Statement of Commonality of SoCG Final draft DCO to be submitted by the Applicant in the Statutory Instrument (SI) template with the SI template validation report Resubmission of final version of updated application documents 	
23	The ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.	Saturday 8 February 2020

Publication Dates

All information received will be published on the project website as soon as practicable after the deadline for submissions. An Examination Library will be kept up to date throughout the Examination and can be accessed via the project page. Each document will be afforded a unique reference. These references will be used by the ExA during the Examination.

Hearing Agendas

Please note that we will aim to publish a detailed draft agenda for each hearing on the project website at least five working days in advance of the hearing date; but the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

For Open Floor Hearings agendas will not be published unless, in consideration of the number of participants notified to the Planning Inspectorate, the ExA decides that establishing a running order will facilitate the process on the day.

Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

Where the Applicant has provided a No Significant Effects Report or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the DCO application, the ExA may decide to issue a RIES during the Examination. The RIES is a factual account of the information and evidence provided to the ExA on HRA matters during the Examination up to the date of the publication of the RIES, for the purposes of enabling the Secretary of State, as competent authority, to undertake its HRA. It

Annex C

is not the ExA's opinion on HRA matters. Comments on the RIES will be invited by the ExA and any received will be taken into account as part of the ExA's Recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet his/her obligations under Regulation 63(3) of the Habitats Regulations 2017 and/ or Regulation 28 of the Offshore Marine Regulations.

Availability of Examination Documents

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/North%20East/VPI-Immingham-OCGT/

All further documents submitted in the course of the Examination will also be published at the above location.

For ease of navigation, please refer to the Examination Library (EL) which is accessible via a blue button under the 'Documents' tab. The EL is updated regularly throughout the Examination.

The EL records and provides a hyperlink to:

- each application document;
- each representation made to the Examination; and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is given a unique reference which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. A hyperlink to each document on the project webpage is also provided. Please use the unique reference numbers applied in the EL when referring to any Examination Documents in any future submissions that you make.

Documents can be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the following locations. Please note that you may need to bring a form of identification to use a computer at these locations.

Electronic deposit locations

Venue	Address	Opening hours
Civic Centre, Immingham Town Council	Pelham Road, Immingham DN40 1QF	Monday: 9:00am - 7:00pm Tuesday: 8:30am - 5:30pm Wednesday: 8:30am - 5:00pm Thursday: 9:00am - 7:00pm Friday: 8:30am - 5:30pm Saturday: 9:00am - 2:00pm Sunday: CLOSED Black and White A4 - 20p per sheet Colour A4 - 50p per sheet

Immingham Library	Pelham Road, Immingham DN40 1QF	Monday: 8:30am - 5:30pm Tuesday: 8:30am - 5:30pm Wednesday: CLOSED Thursday: 8:30am - 5:30pm Friday: 8:30am - 5:30pm Saturday: 9:00am - 1:00pm Sunday: CLOSED Black and White A4 - 20p per sheet Colour A4 - 50p per sheet
Scunthorpe Central Library	Carlton Street, Scunthorpe DN15 6TX	Monday: 9:00am - 5:00pm Tuesday: 9;00am - 5;00pm Wednesday: 9:00am - 7:00pm Thursday: 9:00am - 5:00pm Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm Saturday: 9:00am - 4:00pm Sunday: CLOSED First half hour free then 60p per half hour after. A4 black and white printing - 10p per sheet
North East Lincolnshire Council	New Oxford House, George Street, Grimsby DN31 1HB	Monday: CLOSED Tuesday: 10:00am - 4:00pm Wednesday: 10:00am - 4:00pm Thursday: 10:00am - 4:00pm Friday: 10:00am - 4:00pm Saturday: 10:00am - 4:00pm Sunday: 10:00am - 4:00pm

Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

The ExA has made the following Procedural Decisions under Section 89(3) of the PA2008:

1. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

In relation to some of the Principal Issues identified in **Annex B**, the ExA would be assisted by the preparation of SoCG between the Applicant and certain Interested Parties. The draft Examination Timetable at **Annex C** therefore provides a deadline for submission of SoCG. This is **Deadline 2** on Wednesday **18 September 2019**.

The aim of a SoCG is to agree factual information and to inform the ExA and all other parties by identifying where there is agreement and where the differences lie at an early stage in the examination process. It should provide a focus and save time by identifying matters which are not in dispute or need not be the subject of further evidence. It can also usefully state where and why there may be disagreement about the interpretation and relevance of the information. The reasons for the differences and interpretation of the implications of a difference can then be expanded in the evidence. Unless otherwise stated or agreed, the SoCG should be agreed between the Applicant and the other relevant Interested Party or parties, and submitted by the Applicant.

SoCG are requested to be prepared between the Applicant and:

A. **Environment Agency** to include:

- Development Consent Order
- Environmental Permits
- Water environment effects including foul water drainage
- Construction Environmental Management Plan

B. **Natural England** to include:

- Development Consent Order
- Effect on habitats, species and nationally designated sites
- Effect on European sites and features relevant to Habitat Regulations Assessment; assessment methodology and conclusions

C. National Grid Electricity Transmission / National Grid Gas to include:

- Effect on existing apparatus
- Connection matters

The SoCG should cover the following topics where relevant:

- Methodology for Environmental Impact Assessment including assessment of cumulative effects
- Data collection methods
- Baseline data
- Data/ statistical analysis, approach to modelling and presentation of results (including forecast methodologies)
- Full expression of expert judgements and assumptions

- Identification and sensitivity of relevant features and quantification of potential impact
- Likely effects (direct and indirect) on special interest features of sites designated or notified for any nature conservation purpose
- Feasible and deliverable mitigation and method for securing such mitigation within the Development Consent Order

All of the SoCG listed above should cover the Articles and Requirements in the draft DCO. Any Interested Party seeking for an Article or Requirement to be reworded should provide in the SoCG the form of words which are being sought.

Where a particular SoCG cannot be agreed between the parties by **Deadline 2**, or in so far as any local authority position represents an officer level view only, draft versions of that SoCG are requested to be submitted **by the Applicant** to **Deadline 2**. The position of the relevant Interested Parties should then be confirmed in the course of the Examination.

The content of SoCG is necessary to help inform the ExA as to the need to hold any Issue Specific Hearings in **October/ December 2019**, and to enable the ExA and the Applicant to give notice of such hearings at least 21 days in advance of them taking place.

2. Post Submission Application document

Following acceptance of the application, the Applicant submitted an updated Book of Reference to the Planning Inspectorate on the 4 July 2019.

This above information has been formally accepted by the ExA into the Examination and published on the Immingham project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-east/vpi-immingham-ocgt/?ipcsection=docs

Interested Parties are asked to submit any comments they may have on this updated document as part of their representations by **Deadline 2** on **Wednesday 18 September 2019.**