

Meeting note

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| Project name | VPI Immingham OCGT Project |
| File reference | EN010097 |
| Status | Final |
| Author | The Planning Inspectorate |
| Date | 19 April 2018 |
| Meeting with | VPI Immingham B Ltd |
| Venue | Temple Quay House, Bristol |
| Attendees | The Planning Inspectorate VPI Immingham B Ltd |
| Meeting objectives | Inception meeting |
| Circulation | All attendees |

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

Welcome and introductions

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely. The Inspectorate explained that the publication of the meeting note could be delayed up to six months, or until a formal scoping request had been submitted.

Proposed Development

The Proposed Development will consist of a 299MW Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) with associated infrastructure. The site is located north of Immingham and is set in an industrial landscape on brownfield land. The Applicant has an option on the land and is currently preparing a 49.99MW gas engines project next to the Proposed Development, which will be submitted to the Local Authority (North Lincolnshire Council) as a planning application under the Town and Planning Act 1990 (hereafter "the TCPA application"). There is an existing car park and canteen, which belong to the Lindsey Oil Refinery, currently occupying parts of the site but this may be decommissioned in the near future. It was clarified that the Proposed Development will not require a Water Abstraction License as it is an OCGT. The Applicant has conducted several site studies and has therefore a good understanding of the site. However, more surveys are planned in order to robustly define the baseline environment. Construction and operation of the Proposed Development will require a new access road to be built within the red line boundary. The closest residential settlement to the site is located 2 km away and there are two individual dwellings nearer, the closest being more than 500m from the site boundary.

There are existing gas and electricity connections in the vicinity of the site which have the capacity to support the Proposed Development. The Applicant is currently in negotiations with National Grid. It was confirmed that there is a sub-station on the site that has sufficient capacity to provide a connection for the Proposed Development. The gas pipeline route will need to cross existing infrastructure belonging to Conoco Philips.

The Applicant intends to seek agreements with Conoco Philips but will also agree protective provisions.

The Applicant intends to use the Rochdale envelope approach for their assessments in the ES enabling the required flexibility for the Proposed Development.

Consultation

The Applicant intends to carry out two rounds of consultation. The first round is scheduled for June 2018 and will be non-statutory. The statutory consultation is currently planned for September/October 2018. The Applicant is currently mapping out the various communities and stakeholders in preparation for the consultation. The Applicant has already started to engage with key stakeholders such as the relevant local authority (North Lincolnshire Council), local Parish Councils and Statutory Parties. The Applicant was advised to engage early with Network Rail due to the close proximity of a railway line to the site. It was confirmed that the gas pipeline would not cross the track. The Applicant is currently drafting its Statement of Community Consultation. It also confirmed it is working on how to engage with hard to reach groups.

Scoping

The Applicant intends to submit its Scoping Request in May 2018. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to avoid conducting any consultation activities at the same time as the Inspectorate's Scoping as it could cause confusion and lead to consultation fatigue. The Inspectorate requested that the GIS shapefile is provided at least 10 working days before the request for a Scoping Opinion is submitted. The Inspectorate's project web page will also need to be made 'live' before or at the same time as the Scoping Opinion was sought. The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it had already received a Scoping Opinion from North Lincolnshire Council in relation to the TCPA application and therefore had a good understanding of what the scope of the ES should be. The Applicant highlighted that Cultural Heritage, Sustainability, Waste and Socio-economics were scoped out of the ES for the TCPA application. It was agreed that the Scoping Opinion for the TCPA application would be submitted as an appendix to the Scoping Report submitted to the Inspectorate to provide additional context.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Applicant stated that air quality is likely to be a necessary consideration for the assessment in the ES. The Applicant suggested that because the plant is a peaking plant, using OCGT, it would not be required to install any secondary nitrogen oxide abatement technology. The Applicant also pointed out that the background emissions levels were generally low.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that the site has good transport links and therefore did not regard construction traffic as a key issue for the project.

The Applicant confirmed it had done some initial Protected Species surveys but stated the need to conduct further surveys.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate it would not produce a standalone Human Health Impact Assessment but that it would address the matter in the relevant chapters

of the ES. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to provide some upfront text in the ES to signpost the health-related sections, to facilitate consultees' (such as Public Health England) access to the relevant information.

The Applicant was advised to consider the previously consented Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects in the area, and the TCPA application, when doing its Cumulative Impact Assessment. The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that the project is located in Flood Zone 3 and that it is working with the Environmental Agency (EA) to agree the approach to the Flood Risk Assessment taking into account existing flood defences in the area.

The Inspectorate highlighted a recent ruling from the European Court of Justice (C-323/17 – People Over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (2018) (12/04/18)) which held that it is no longer permissible to rely on mitigation measures to conclude no significant adverse effects of a project on a European site (and thereby avoid undertaking an appropriate assessment). The Applicant confirmed that it would take this ruling into account.

It was confirmed that the Environmental Permit application to the EA would be twin tracked with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

Compulsory Acquisition

The Applicant is currently identifying all potential landowners that might be impacted by the project and is hoping to secure private agreements with them. It was clarified that the DCO will contain Compulsory Acquisition powers as a safeguard if negotiations fail.

Practical Arrangements

It was agreed that the Applicant would request meetings after major project milestones. The Applicant's main contact will be [REDACTED] and the Inspectorate's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The Applicant agreed that the Inspectorate could use 'Immingham OCGT' for the project's email account.

Anticipated submission date

Quarter 1 2019

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

- The Inspectorate will send the Applicant its new project information request template – *post meeting note* – *Request sent 20 April 2018*