



Meeting note

Project name	Keadby Hydrogen Power Station Project
File reference	EN0110001
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	2 July 2024
Meeting with	SSE Hydrogen Developments Limited
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed, and advice given

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.

Project Update

The Applicant outlined that since receiving the Scoping Opinion work had been focussing on preparing the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) including assessing the red line boundary, rationalising it where appropriate in relation to cooling water production and the electrical connection.

The Applicant advised that the power station may need to operate in the immediate term using natural gas if a hydrogen supply is not available. The Applicant advised that it is aware of comments in the Scoping Opinion requesting clarity of understanding on what this means for individual assessments.

The Applicant advised that it is reviewing the Finch legal judgement ([2024] UKSC 20) regarding the assessment of direct and indirect greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and is assessing the implications for the project.

Scoping Opinion

The Applicant stated that the scoping submission included a boundary which provided for flexibility. The Applicant advised that a number of the aspects included in the scoping boundary were included on a precautionary basis and following further work will be removed including the provision of a larger haul route which has been consented under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 regime. The area of the site has been reduced since scoping, due to removal of some of the options that were set out in the Scoping Report.

There was a discussion concerning the advice in the Scoping Opinion to provide further detail regarding the decommissioning and decommissioning processes.

The Inspectorate highlighted that the response to the Scoping consultation from the Environment Agency had raised the need to scope in decommissioning. The Inspectorate advised that consideration of decommissioning at the early stages of project design prompts consideration of the lifecycle of construction materials in the context of the circular economy. The Applicant was advised that the assessment of decommissioning should consider where there is likely to be a change to the future baseline e.g. due to climate change or water scarcity, and the implications thereof compared to the construction phase.

The Inspectorate advised that late scoping responses had been received from North Lincolnshire Council, Severn Trent, and National Grid Electricity Transmission and these would be published to the project page as soon as possible.

Programme Document

The Applicant outlined that the programme document is a live document that will continue to be developed throughout the pre-application stage. The Applicant was advised that a programme document should be submitted as part of the Expression of Interest process currently being run by the Planning Inspectorate. The Inspectorate advised that this should be as detailed as possible with an explanation for any gaps providing as much detail that is available. The Applicant will be responsible for publishing the programme document on its website.

The Applicant provided an overview of the current programme document and advised that the current intended application submission date is March 2025. A number of milestones were presented to the Inspectorate including a formal consultation period planned for September – October 2024 and draft document review in January 2025. The Inspectorate advised that the current planned draft document review would provide limited time for the Applicant to respond to feedback ahead of submission due to the Inspectorate requiring a 6-8 week review period. The Applicant was advised that further detail should be included in the programme document in relation to anticipated timings for the Statement of Community Consultation publication and consultation with Local Planning Authorities and key consultees.

The Inspectorate was provided with an overview of the main topics that the Applicant considers to be examination issues and what is being undertaken to address identified issues. The Applicant advised that topics had been identified from scoping responses and more general concerns relating to power station applications. Issues identified included, but were not limited to, air and noise emissions, flood risk, hydrogen readiness and GHG assessment scenarios. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to review the current list following the statutory consultation.

Stakeholder Engagement

The Applicant advised that it is developing a consultation strategy and it will be published on the Applicant's project website once completed. The Applicant advised that it has established a consultation zone based on the consultation zone created for Keadby 3. Engagement remains ongoing with Natural England, local councils, and the Environment Agency.

The Inspectorate highlighted that the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 came into force on 30 April 2024 and amended the list of bodies an applicant needs to consult, as set out in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, as well as scope of the 'relevance test' applied. As such, the Applicant should ensure that the amended Regulations are applied to the statutory consultation. The Inspectorate noted that it is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure their consultation fully accords with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and associated regulations and guidance. The Regulation 11 list compiled by the Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State in its duty to notify the consultation bodies in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations can inform the Applicant's own consultation, but it should not be relied upon for that purpose.

Actions

The following actions were agreed:

- The Inspectorate to revise the ID numbers that are included in the Scoping Opinion due to numbers not appearing.
- The Applicant to submit an Expression of Interest by 10 July 2024 including a copy of the current programme document.