
To:

Our Ref: EN0110001

Environment Agency
Keadby Next Generation Limited
Natural England
The Crown Estate

6 October 2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**Application by Keadby Next Generation Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Keadby Next Generation Power Station Project (“the Proposed Development”)****REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 19 June 2026, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State on 6 August 2026. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has three months to determine the application.
2. There are matters on which the Secretary of State would be grateful if the Applicant, the Environment Agency, Natural England and The Crown Estate could provide updates or information as appropriate.

Decarbonisation Readiness Assessment

3. The Secretary of State understands that whilst the Environmental Permit application was submitted to the Environment Agency prior to the Environmental Permitting (Electricity Generating Stations) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 (“the 2025 Regulations”) coming into force, the Applicant has provided a Decarbonisation Readiness Assessment (which she understands purports to be a Decarbonisation Readiness Report under the 2025 Regulations) with its Environmental Permit application. The Secretary of State also understands that the Environment Agency is assessing this report as part of the Applicant’s Environmental Permit application.
4. Can the **Environment Agency** please:

- a. Confirm that the Environment Agency has powers to treat the Environmental Permit application and the associated Decarbonisation Readiness Assessment as having been submitted in accordance with Schedule 25C to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 as inserted by the 2025 Regulations.
- b. Advise whether, in determining the Environmental Permit application under Schedule 25C, the Environment Agency will assess both carbon capture readiness and hydrogen conversion readiness, or only the decarbonisation pathway relied upon in the Decarbonisation Readiness Assessment. If the Environment Agency will only assess hydrogen conversion readiness, please explain what role, if any, it will have in assessing or otherwise considering compliance with carbon capture readiness requirements.

Air Quality Assessment

5. The Secretary of State notes Natural England's representation [REP5-017] that it was unclear whether the use of Selective Catalytic Reduction ("SCR") constitutes a commitment where a combined cycle gas turbine ("CCGT") technology requiring SCR is selected, as the Applicant had indicated that its use would depend on whether additional NO_x mitigation is required. Natural England nevertheless considered that the approach could be accepted, given that the assessment relies on the lower emission limit, provided that the necessary mitigation is appropriately secured at detailed design.
6. The Secretary of State further notes the Applicant's response [C1-004b] that it does not consider a DCO requirement securing SCR to be necessary, on the basis that the relevant emission limit values would be defined, monitored and regulated through the Environmental Permit, with the means of achieving those limits determined by the operator in accordance with Best Available Techniques. The Environment Agency has advised [C1-002] that, should the Environmental Permit be granted, it would include conditions relating to SCR, including an emission limit value and monitoring requirements for ammonia based on the assumption that SCR would be fitted. However, whether SCR is ultimately required would depend on whether the plant complies with the NO_x emission limits specified in the Environmental Permit without it.
7. In light of the above, **Natural England** is requested to advise whether:
 - a. It is satisfied that the Environmental Permit would provide an appropriate and sufficiently certain mechanism to secure the emission performance relied upon in the Habitats Regulations Assessment ("HRA"), including the installation and operation of SCR where necessary to comply with the relevant emission limits, such that a separate DCO requirement is not required to support the HRA conclusions.

- b. On that basis, whether it considers that a separate DCO requirement securing SCR is unnecessary for the purposes of the HRA.

Article 40(5) of the draft Keadby Next Generation Power Station Order

8. The Secretary of State notes the information proactively provided by the Applicant on 18 September 2026 concerning the inclusion of Article 40(5) in the draft Keadby Next Generation Power Station Order in respect of environmental impacts.
9. The Secretary of State notes that, under section 120(5) of the Planning Act 2008 she may make such amendments, repeals or revocations of statutory provisions of local application (such as to an existing DCO) as appear to her to be necessary or expedient in consequence of a provision of the order or in connection with the order. The **Applicant** is therefore asked to provide any further justification beyond that set out in the Explanatory Memorandum [REP6-004 paragraphs 5.56 - 5.59] for:
 - a. The extension by a further four years to commence The Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022 (“the Keadby CCS Order”) authorised development, from seven years after the Keadby CCS Order was made (namely December 2029) to seven years after the entrance into force of the Keadby Next Generation Power Station Order, which would imply a date of 2033 if that Order is granted in 2026;
 - b. The extension by a further six years for the exercise of the compulsory purchase powers in the Keadby CCS Order, from five years after the Keadby CCS Order was made (namely December 2027) to seven years from the date on which the Keadby Next Generation Power Order is made, which would imply a date of 2033 if that Order is granted in 2026.

Crown Consent

10. The Secretary of State welcomes the updates provided by the Applicant regarding progress towards the grant of Crown consent. However, these updates did not provide the exact date by which the signed agreement will be submitted to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.
11. The Secretary of State considers this information to be necessary to inform her decision and will be unable to make a decision without it. The **Applicant** and **The Crown Estate** are therefore requested to confirm the exact date on which the signed agreement will be submitted to the Secretary of State.

DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE

12. The deadline for responses is **23:59 on 18 October 2026**.
13. Responses should be submitted by email only to:
keadbynextgeneration@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

14. Responses will be published on the Keadby Next Generation Power Station Project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after the 18 October 2026:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110001>

15. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Proposed Development or any part of the project. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours faithfully,

John Wheadon

John Wheadon

Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery & Innovation

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero