



Meeting note

File reference	EN020015 and EN010007
Project	North Wales Connection project and Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station project
Status	Final
Author	Kay Sully
Date	26 September 2017
Meeting with	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Venue	Temple Quay House, Bristol
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Pauleen Lane – Group Manager (by telecon) Chris White – Infrastructure Planning Lead Simone Wilding – Head of Major Casework Kay Sully - Case Manager Tracey Williams – Case Manager Steffan Jones – Case Manager Isle of Anglesey County Council Dylan Williams – Head of Regulation & Economic Development Gareth Hall – Consultant Kath Haddrell – Development Consent Order Lead Officer for North Wales Connection
Meeting objectives	To discuss the handling of examinations for the proposed North Wales Connection project and Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station projects
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

Introduction

The Isle of Anglesey County Council (the Council) and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) introduced themselves and 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 Council (or others) can rely.

Local update on both projects

The Council updated the Inspectorate on their recent work in preparation for the proposed developments utilising the Planning Performance Agreements which have been put in place with both Horizon and National Grid until May / June 2019.

A new Council was elected in May and a major consents portfolio role is being created in October 2017 which was approved by the Welsh Government and will be a political role focusing on the issues and impacts of the two projects. Anglesey has also recently adopted a Joint Local Development Plan (DP) with Gwynedd, which is the first Welsh Joint Local DP.

The Council advised that whilst there is general support in Anglesey for the Wylfa project, there are concerns over construction impacts, the workers' accommodation strategy and local skills and employment opportunities. Whilst the Council understands the connector is needed, and is fully committed to supporting both projects through their examination, it doesn't support the National Grid proposal for an additional overhead, high voltage line on the same route as the existing line and proposes total undergrounding.

The Inspectorate and the Council discussed the Pre Application Consultation Stage 3 (PAC3) Consultation carried out by Horizon for Wylfa. The Council said that this was a challenging timetable for them to meet and although it acknowledged Horizon's efforts in submitting documents in advance of the consultation period. There was a high volume of material with limited detail. They felt that there was not enough detail in the PAC3 consultation which seemed to focus on the changes / differences to PAC 2 whereas people were expecting to see further detail. The Inspectorate noted that feedback from other statutory parties had raised similar concerns and that this would be fed back to the Applicant.

The Council informed the Inspectorate that local stakeholders had raised concerns over not being fully engaged in the process such as the North Wales Police and Fire & Rescue Service. The Inspectorate confirmed that the Council can incorporate any comments they are receiving into their response on the draft documents. The Council explained that Community Councils affected by the Wylfa Newydd proposal have formed "the North Anglesey Partnership". Horizon have agreed to produce a community impact assessment report whereby all relevant information from different assessments is available in one place for local residents for ease of reference.

The Inspectorate advised that it is encouraging developers when they submit documents as part of the examination that they highlight the key issues within that document by way of a cover letter listing all the issues / content. Such sign posting documents with executive summaries for each key document were well received eg on the Richborough Connection Project. That way, anyone wishing to review the documentation should be able to see what the document includes before downloading, etc, thereby helping to reduce time in accessing the material.

The Inspectorate informed the Council that it was currently reviewing Horizon's suite of draft documents and that a meeting in October is scheduled to provide feedback. A note of this meeting will be published on the Inspectorate's project page. The Council confirmed they were also sent draft documents for review with an eight week review

period. The Council referred to having received limited draft documents from National Grid.

Highway Works

The Council informed the Inspectorate that Horizon's Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) applications for offline highway improvements and site preparation works are likely to be submitted to the Council in October 2017. From the draft docs, it appears that Horizon intends, even if permission for the site preparation works is granted under TCPA, these works will also be included in the Development Consent Order (DCO).

The Inspectorate advised The Council to look at [Advice Note 15](#) (DCO drafting) which has been produced jointly with the DCO consenting departments therefore also reflecting their views.

Submission of application

The Inspectorate and the Council confirmed their understanding that the Applications as matters currently stand, are both due to be submitted in Q1 2018. The Inspectorate will be advising the Applicants to ensure engagement with each other and their stakeholders so everyone involved remains up to date on likely submission dates, and can plan their resources accordingly.

The Inspectorate encouraged the Council to use the time in the run up to the Preliminary Meeting to carry out much of the work due for submission during the examination. The invitation to the Preliminary Meeting letter ('Rule 6 letter') will include the Examining Authority's assessment of initial principal issues and a draft timetable for the examination. The Inspectorate suggested the Council to look at other published Rule 6 letters to get an idea of what they will contain.

The Council confirmed it has a draft scheme of delegation prepared so if a submission deadline falls outside of a committee reporting period then they will still be able to meet this. Work was progressing towards approving the scheme of delegation at a forthcoming full Council meeting.

Local Impact Report

The Council asked if there were any good examples of local impact reports. The Inspectorate advised that three are highlighted on the [National Infrastructure website](#) with a brief explanation in which respect they are considered exemplary.

[Advice Note 1](#) also provides general pointers and good practice advice for preparing a Local Impact Report. As the Planning Act requires the Secretary of State (SoS) to have regard to a Local Impact Report this provides the Council an important opportunity for setting out the matters it considers most important for the SoS to take into account.

Key pointers for a Local Import Report to be effective therefore include:

- comprehensive list of the key matters;
- good, user-friendly structure;
- clear presentation of all the key planning and environmental issues; and

- well justified by evidence (signposting to relevant documents).

Programming

The Council asked if they were able to influence the ExA's timetables to ensure that they, Gwynedd Council, and other public bodies such as Natural Resources Wales (NWR) will be able to manage two overlapping examinations. The Inspectorate assured the Council that it is working consciously with this in mind, and will make every effort to avoid any clashes of significant deadlines or hearings to reduce the burden on all participants.

The Inspectorate advised that whilst the ExA would not be able to directly consult with the Council on the drafting of the timetable, it will have the opportunity to raise any issues with the ExA's draft timetable in response to the Rule 6 letter and / or at the Preliminary Meeting.

If the Inspectorate is aware early on of any critical dates that the examinations should avoid then it will take this into consideration and suggested that it would be helpful if the Council could bring such dates to the case manager's attention.

The Council emphasised the importance of holding all the Wylfa Newydd Hearing sessions on the Island, with a specific 'localised impacts' hearing in North Anglesey early in the programme. The expectation that 80-90% of the North Wales Grid Connection Hearing sessions are held on the Island was also emphasised. The Council agreed to send photographs of the Memorial Hall (Amlwch) to the Inspectorate.

Any other business

The Inspectorate advised that its website now complies with the Welsh Language Standards, so the Wylfa Newydd and the North Wales Connection project pages can be viewed in Welsh and the Inspectorate would welcome any feedback on the content of the website that the Council may have.

The Council highlighted the new Welsh Government legislation on wellbeing, historic and natural environment and inquired about its applicability to the DCO consenting process. The Inspectorate outlined that the Secretary of State (SofS) would determine the weight given to different legislation.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed that Anglesey Council would maintain contact with the Inspectorate regarding the development of the two proposed applications. It was agreed to discuss progress in December 2017. [Post meeting note: the meeting has been arranged for 18 January 2017]