

**Meeting Note**

<b>File reference</b>	EN010034 Avon Power Station 950 MW Output project
<b>Status</b>	Final
<b>Author</b>	Jolyon Wootton

<b>Meeting with</b>	Scottish Power (SP) and Arup
<b>Meeting date</b>	21 March 2012
<b>Attendees (IPC)</b>	Tom Carpen (Principal Case Manager) Jolyon Wootton (Case Officer)
<b>Attendees (non IPC)</b>	Peter Hulson (Arup, Associate Director) George Camps (SP, Project Manager) Kirsty Henderson (SP, Project Technical Manager)
<b>Location</b>	IPC offices, Bristol

<b>Meeting purpose</b>	Pre-application update meeting
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<b>Summary of key points discussed and advice given</b>	<p>ScottishPower (SP) and Arup were aware of the Infrastructure Planning Commission's (IPC) openness policy (that any advice given will be recorded and placed on the IPC's website under s.51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the Act) and that any advice given does not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) can rely).</p> <p><i>Brief introduction to Scottish Power and Presentation on the Avon CCGT project</i></p> <p>Following introductions, SP and Arup gave a re-introduction to the SP/Iberdrola Group Generation Portfolio and SP's proposals for a new Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Power Station on the former Terra Nitrogen/Growthow site in Severnside, South Gloucestershire.</p> <p>SP view the Avon proposal as part of a portfolio of projects that may help address the national shortfall in generating capacity over the next 10 years, with SP considering CCGT to be an efficient, clean, and thermal generating option. SP informed the IPC that they have already purchased sufficient land to enable the CCGT power station to be Carbon Capture Ready (CCR), in line with Government requirements.</p> <p>SP and Arup said that the 113 acre site is already an established Brownfield site, with National Grid connections and existing infrastructure nearby. The plot is considered to be sufficient for the substation, carbon capture, and laydown areas in addition to the CCGT power station, SP and Arup added, and that the site</p>
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could accommodate additional, future developments.

The site is subject to an active 1957 consent, but the project is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project owing to the generating threshold and that a Development Consent Order (DCO) is to be applied for through the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008).

#### *Consultation Stage 1*

SP updated the IPC on their two-stage consultation engagement process with local people (s.47).

SP commented that their Stage 1 consultation was carried out between 20<sup>th</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 4 public exhibitions, to introduce and discuss facility options, site opportunities, alternative technologies, constraints, and possible impacts and mitigation; the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) having been published beforehand. Answering questions from the IPC, SP reported that there had been good, informal dialogue with some statutory consultees and key stakeholders, as well as South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) and Monmouthshire Council in July 2011. SP and Arup did not believe that holding Stage 1 consultation during the Glastonbury Festival had restricted the number of attendees at these exhibitions or the return of questionnaire forms.

On a voluntary basis, SP and Arup said that they had undertaken additional discussions with Parish Councils, namely Pilning and Severn Beach Parish Council.

IPC said that they would like to set-up a meeting with SGC to discuss its role in assessing adequacy of consultation. The IPC reiterated earlier advice given to Arup and SP that they would need to account for how pre-application consultation had followed the requirements of PA2008, and secondary legislation, if submitted for 'acceptance'.

SP and Arup said that their draft SoCC had been endorsed by SGC's planning committee.

The IPC enquired about SP and Arup's readiness for undertaking consultation under PA2008. SP commented that their project 'Cockenzie', another proposed CCGT seeking consent under a different planning regime, had close similarities to the PA2008 process: 13 public exhibitions had been held to discuss site and design options, with SP having experience of administering project websites, media and mail-shots.

The Statement of Common Ground (SoCG), SP said, now had agreed 'heads of terms' with SGC, and that their informal dialogue with parties had gone beyond statutory requirements.

SP and Arup said that talks with National Grid to explore connection options are to take place in the future, as well as talks with Bristol City Council on boundary issues.

SP and Arup said they wished to be kept informed by the IPC about Advice Note 6 and other projects in the application pipeline.

For s.47 and 42, SP said that certain design and layout principles had been established to support land acquisition purposes. Technical options would be reviewed over the next few months, SP and Arup said.

#### *Environmental progress*

From their surveys, SP said that no inward migration of birds was likely. Arup commented that SP had been looking at means of contributing a proportion of the £400 million proposed Estuary Defence, alongside other developers, but they would not be accountable for the total cost.

Baseline data had been provided to SP by the Highways Agency and their advice on network constraints, transportation routes, and any potential impacts, SP reported.

SP considered their Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) (June 2011), by Mott McDonald, was sufficiently comprehensive for s.47 purposes and that SP were consulting with SGC on any further issues.

IPC explained to SP and Arup that the Commission requires at least 2 weeks notice for any Screening or Scoping advice, with the provision of a 'shape file' from the promoter [further information is available in [Advice Note 3](#) and [Advice Note 6](#)].

SP said that their Stage 2 consultation would outline their preferred proposals and any material changes, and would take place during late 2012.

#### *Technical design development*

SP and Arup discussions with relevant bodies for the highway, electrical and gas connections to the site, with any feasibility issues, would be on-going for 2012.

Answering IPC's questions, SP and Arup said that any formalised options may require a grid application, with a 400 KV line to the West. There is a need to connect close to the site and that SP and Arup would look to the Seabank application for options.

	<p>Understanding the relationship of any potential NSIP applications would be useful at an early stage, the IPC commented.</p> <p><i>IPC transitional arrangements to the National Infrastructure Directorate</i></p> <p>The IPC discussed with SP and Arup the future of the IPC under the Localism Act 2011. From 1 April 2012, the IPC is to be abolished, with its functions seamlessly transferred to the Planning Inspectorate. The new National Infrastructure Directorate will be able under the Localism Act 2011 to discuss 'merits' of proposed applications, but the precise form of these comments is yet to be tested. The Advice Notes and project information would still be available on the Planning Portal website.</p> <p>The IPC said that DCLG information about the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework and its associated guidance is expected to be published by end of March 2012.</p> <p><i>Ongoing Engagement</i></p> <p>Next steps: SP to submit their s.46 notification to the Planning Inspectorate, National Infrastructure Directorate, before undertaking formal s.42 consultation.</p> <p>SP are said to be consolidating their environmental data to support their s.42 engagement process.</p> <p>A DCO could be submitted mid-2013, SP reported.</p>
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<b>Specific decisions/ follow up required?</b>	<p>Update meeting with Scottish Power and Arup, with site visit, to be arranged.</p> <p>National Infrastructure Directorate meeting with Local Authorities, to be arranged.</p>
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<b>Circulation List</b>	Attendees