



The Planning Inspectorate

Please note that this meeting took place before the work of the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) transferred to the Planning Inspectorate on 1 April 2012.

Meeting notes are published by the Planning Inspectorate in the online Register of Advice: <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/register-of-advice/> . For ease of reference, this includes the notes of meetings held with the IPC prior to 1 April

Meeting Note

File reference	EN010050
Status	Final
Author	Oliver Blower

Meeting with	ESB International
Meeting date	14 March 2012
Attendees (IPC)	Tom Carpen (Principle Case Officer) Tracey Williams (Case Manager) Oliver Blower (Case Officer)
Attendees (non IPC)	Darragh Carr (Project Manager – ESBI) Patrick Nolan (Senior Consultant – ESBI) Ben Wallace (Project Development Manager – ESBI) Peter Hulson (Arups) Victoria Heron (Sinclair Knight Merz) Emily Agus (PB)
Location	IPC Offices, Temple Quay House

Meeting purpose	Introductory Project Meeting – Knottingley Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Power Station, East Knottingley, West Yorkshire
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Summary of key points discussed and advice given	<p>IPC Openness Policy</p> <p>IPC advised on its openness policy and that any advice given will be recorded and placed on the IPC's website under s.51 of the Planning Act 2008. Any advice given under s.51 does not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) can rely.</p> <p>IPC clarified that it can not discuss the merits of a case but can advise on procedural matters.</p> <p>Brief Introduction to ESB International</p> <p>ESBI are a state owned utilities company responsible for 6GW of capacity in Ireland. They aim to provide 3GW of new generating</p>
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capacity in the UK through the use of CCGT and wind generation.

Introduction to Project – Background and Description

ESBI propose to construct a 1500 MW CCGT (nominal) (Combined Cycle Gas Turbine) generating station on 50 acres of land a portion of which formerly housed a now demolished chemical works situated in the east of Knottingley. The site is bound by a canal and railway with a 400KV electrical line running nearby. The site is located within the Wakefield Council administrative boundary.

The generating station is envisaged to burn natural gas only, supplied by a National Grid high pressure pipeline which lies approximately 7 km away.

ESBI have submitted a proposal to National Grid to connect to the existing 400KV lines on site.

Preliminary Project Information for the IPC website

ESBI confirmed that details of the project for the IPC website will be sent as soon as possible after the meeting.

They confirm that the natural gas connection pipeline will be approximately 400mm in diameter. The construction techniques will depend on the route that is chosen and could include directional drilling to avoid a local nature reserve. There are currently a number of route options being considered.

ESBI described how the plant will use a hybrid cooling system. **ESBI** gave some indicative heights for buildings on site; the stack height is yet to be determined but will be approximately 70m in height; the heat recovery building will be approximately 45m in height; the turbine hall will be approximately 35m in height, and the cooling block will be approximately 20m in height.

The generating station is envisaged to employ 50 personnel with up to 30 employees working on a shift basis at any one time. The construction phase will require approximately 1,100 construction workers whom will be sourced locally and will not require on-site temporary accommodation.

ESBI confirmed they are liaising with various land owners and will provide further information in due course. They hope that these matters will be resolved privately and that compulsory acquisition will only be used if all other avenues of negotiation fail.

ESBI stated that they are going to identify if there is any special

category land. They confirmed that they are not aware of any Special Protection Areas.

ESBI confirmed that the 'B' Local authorities have known about the proposed project for approximately 2 and a half years and the proposed site is in a site specific Development Plan Document (DPD) earmarked for power generation.

ESBI have been in contact with Wakefield Council, Selby District Council, and North Yorkshire County Council who have provided comments on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The draft SoCC and Consultation Strategy was sent to these local authorities in March with a deadline for comments due by the 4 April 2012. ESBI confirmed that they are working to put a planning performance agreement in place with Selby Council and that a similar arrangement may be put in place with the other Council's should they require it,

The **IPC** indicated that the Localism Act changes some of the SoCC requirements and stated that the draft SoCC can be sent to us for advice on its content before it is published.

Project Programme & Consultation Strategy

ESBI plan to publish the SoCC in the first week of May 2012. Phase 1 consultation will take place in May and last 6 weeks. Three consultation events will be held, an application phone line will be open and letters will be distributed to houses located near to the site and identified using a consultation zoning approach. The consultation documents will include 3 potential route options for the gas pipeline.

Phase 2 of the consultation will take place sometime between September and November 2012 and last 6 weeks.

ESBI indicated that they plan to hold a third consultation exercise after the application had been submitted. The **IPC** advised that this could be confusing for the public and that any events after an application has been submitted are normally conducted by the IPC and take the form of Outreach sessions. The **IPC** advised that outreach events are kept separate from consultation events to avoid causing confusion for the public.

The IPC explained that Outreach sessions are held to ensure that consultees, local authorities and the communities have a better understanding of the purpose and role of the IPC and the opportunities they have to engage in the planning process both at pre-application stage and following the submission of an application to the IPC. Outreach does not form part of the statutory process and it may not be necessary to hold Outreach sessions for every project. *IPC Advice Note 2 'Working together on NSIPs'* contains further information about the IPC's Outreach

programme.

The **IPC** advised that it will inform the applicant if it decides to hold an outreach event.

The IPC advised ESBI to have a clear audit trail of consultation carried out. The Consultation Report that is required under s55 of the PA 2008 to be submitted with the application should clearly detail the consultation and engagement carried out by the developer at the pre-application stage, what has been done in compliance with PA 2008 s42, 47 and 48 including how issues raised by consultees have been taken into account in the development of the scheme.

The IPC also advised that the Consultation Report should include information on informal consultation and engagement in addition to the formal consultation under the Planning Act PA2008.

Please refer to *IPC Advice Note 14 – Compiling the Consultation Report*.

Planning Strategy and Statutory notices

The IPC advised that we encourage developers to send in a draft of their DCO, along with a draft Explanatory Memorandum, relevant plans at least six weeks before formal submission, for technical comment. We would not comment on the merits of the draft documents. The IPC referred to *Advice Note 13 'Preparing the draft order and explanatory memorandum*

The **IPC** confirmed that they do not provide comments on the Environmental statement but a draft copy would nevertheless be useful.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

ESBI intend to submit a formal scoping opinion request in April 2012. They confirmed that the ES will be based on maximum heights and a maximum red line boundary area to the cover worst case scenarios.

The IPC advised that it would like to be notified when the developer plans to submit a request for a Scoping Opinion. Ideally this would be at least 2 weeks before the request so that the IPC EIA team can draw up a consultation list of those organisations we are required to consult under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009. It may also be useful for the IPC to carry out a site visit once the Scoping Opinion request has been received. Further information on the Scoping opinion can be found in *IPC Advice Note 7 'Screening and Scoping under the EIA Regulations'*

	<p>Update on IPC transition to Pins</p> <p>The IPC stated that the transition from the IPC to the National Infrastructure Directorate within the Planning Inspectorate will be a seamless transition. The IPC resources will remain the same after transition. All information on the IPC website would be seamlessly transferred to the Planning Portal on 1 April 2012 as part of the IPC's transition to the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>Questions and discussion</p> <p>ESBI asked a question about materiality. The IPC advised that it currently has no plans to produce an advice note on this issue.</p> <p>The IPC indicated that a pre-application commissioner is appointed on a need basis, and if one is appointed the applicant will be informed.</p>
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Specific decisions/ follow up required?	<p>Further actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The developer to send further information about the proposal which will trigger the IPC to set up a project page on our website.
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Circulation List	Attendees