



The Planning Inspectorate Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Meeting note

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| File reference | EN010055 |
| Status | Final |
| Author | The Planning Inspectorate |
| Date | 7 July 2014 |
| Meeting with | Wrexham Power Ltd |
| Venue | Teleconference |
| Attendees | The Planning Inspectorate Tracey Williams (Case Manager) Steven Parker (Assistant Case Officer) Helen Lancaster (Senior EIA and Land Rights Adviser) The Applicant Daniel Chapman – Wrexham Power Ltd Simon Keefe - Wrexham Power Ltd Rupert Wood - Wrexham Power Ltd Mark Brown – Local Dialogue Darren Mace – Atkins Steve Ricks - Atkins Karl Cradick – Savills |
| Meeting objectives | Project update by Teleconference |
| Circulation | All attendees |

Introduction

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) outlined its openness policy and ensured that the developer 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 (as amended) (PA 2008). Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the developer (or others) can rely.

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The applicant stated that statutory consultation, as defined under s42 of the PA 2008, is due to commence on 14 July 2014 and will run until 24 August 2014. Notice of this, under s47 & s48 of PA 2008, will be published in the Telegraph and the Wrexham Leader newspapers.

In addition, the applicant will be holding public exhibitions at the following locations:

- 21 July - Isycoed Village Hall
- 22 July - Marchwiell Village Hall
- 23 July – Redwither Business Park, Wrexham Industrial Estate

The applicant will be sending a consultation letter under s42 of the PA 2008 this week to local authorities, statutory parties, those with an interest in the land, and others as defined under s44 of PA 2008.

The Inspectorate asked if the project description still contained reference to the electricity connection works, which are now proposed to be sought through a separate planning regime.

The applicant responded that the description given in the statutory consultation applied just to the proposed DCO, which includes the CCGT Power station and the gas connection. The applicant confirmed that the Environmental Statement (ES) will contain information on both the components being applied for in the DCO and information on the electricity connection component.

The Inspectorate advised that the cumulative impacts for the wider scheme should be assessed in the ES, including the impacts of other projects in the vicinity of the proposal.

Pre-application Engagement Update

The Inspectorate asked how the grid connection component of the project was progressing.

The applicant stated that they had been in discussions with Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) over the connection for over a year. The applicant will be meeting with SPEN shortly to agree on a connection statement. SPEN are the distribution licence holder for North Wales, Merseyside and Cheshire.

The Inspectorate advised that the Grid Connection Statement submitted as an application document for the South Hook Combined Heat and Power (CHP) project was a good example that the applicant may wish to follow. This can be found on the Inspectorate's project webpage for the South Hook CHP Project: [South Hook CHP Grid Connection Statement](#).

The Inspectorate offered to review the applicant's Grid Connection Statement along with other draft documents prior to formal submission, in view to identifying any risks either to acceptance or any potential examination.

The applicant has arranged a meeting with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to discuss great crested newt habitats and what mitigation methods would need to be applied. The applicant stated that the last newt survey was carried out almost two years ago, and NRW have agreed for the applicant to use their modelling. Currently the applicant is not considering applying for a European Protected Species Licence as part of the DCO.

The Inspectorate advised that the applicant should work towards a statement of common ground with NRW, and that the applicant may consider that the time involved in obtaining a licence could be a risk to any application for a DCO.

The applicant stated that a draft licence would be provided at the time of the application for the DCO as NRW wished to see one.

The Inspectorate asked the applicant for an update on the Environmental Permit (EP). The applicant explained that the application for an EP will be made after the DCO application has been submitted. The Inspectorate advised that although this is not a statutory requirement for the DCO application process, during examination an Examining Authority (ExA) must be satisfied that any EP can be granted to assist the ExA when writing its recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State. It was explained that NRW advises applicants to submit applications for an EP six months in advance of submission of the DCO application.

The applicant explained that it was not practical to make an EP application until the detailed technical specification and design of the power station has been undertaken. The DCO application would follow 'Rochdale Envelope' principles, and the detailed technical specification would not be confirmed until after an Order is made. The applicant will seek common ground with NRW to the effect that there is nothing in the DCO application to suggest that an EP would not be forthcoming, subject to confirmation of detailed operational characteristics.

Round Table Meeting

The Inspectorate advised the applicant of the benefits of holding a round table meeting following the consultation period. This will allow discussion with local stakeholders, such as the local authority, on issues arising from consultation and to help target the correct consultee groups.

Pre-application Prospectus

The Inspectorate made the applicant aware of the pre-application prospectus, which sets out the Inspectorate's service for applicants at pre-application stage. The prospectus includes a contact plan which the applicant may find useful.

Draft Documents

The Inspectorate asked for the applicant to indicate when draft versions of documents could be expected, as they need to allocate time in order to do this.

The applicant stated that they intended to do this in December 2014, and that they would be submitting the consultation report, draft DCO, plans and connection statement.

AOB

The next Teleconference is scheduled for 24 August 2014.

The applicant asked if the Inspectorate would be able to send representatives to attend their public exhibitions. The Inspectorate advised that it would not be possible, in order to maintain impartiality.