

The Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order

18.2 The Applicant's Response to Chris Briggs D7 submission

Planning Act 2008 The Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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The Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order

**Applicant's comments on submissions made at
Examination deadline 7**

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1. Introduction

OVERVIEW OF THE SCHEME AND THE DCO APPLICATION

- 1.1. Wrexham Power Limited (WPL or 'the Applicant') has applied to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008). The application for the proposed Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order ('the Order') is for powers to construct, operate and maintain the Power Station Complex Site on land at Bryn Lane on Wrexham Industrial Estate (WIE) in the County and Borough of Wrexham. The Order would also authorise the Applicant to compulsorily acquire land rights to construct, operate and maintain the Gas Connection.
- 1.2. Unless defined in this document, the terms used in this document have the same meaning as in the Glossary submitted with the Application [APP-156].
- 1.3. WPL is a joint venture company established by St. Modwen Properties V Sarl and Glenfinnan Properties. Both companies have an extensive background in the development and economic regeneration of sites throughout the UK, including experience in the energy sector.
- 1.4. The Power Station Complex Site constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) by virtue of section 14(1)(a) and section 15 of the PA 2008, which includes within the definition of an NSIP any onshore generating station in England or Wales of more than 50 megawatts capacity. Under section 31 of the PA 2008 a DCO is required for development to the extent that the development is, or forms part of, an NSIP. Under section 37 of the PA 2008, this can only be granted if an application is made for it to the relevant Secretary of State – in this case, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
- 1.5. The Gas Connection element of the Scheme has been consented separately under the Town and County Planning Act 1990 by means of a planning application granted by the local planning authority, Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC or 'the Council'), on 5 September 2016. However, powers of compulsory acquisition over the land required for the Gas Connection are being sought as part of the Application. The Environmental Statement (ES) that accompanies the Application has assessed both the Power Station Complex Site and the Gas Connection together pursuant to the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 and the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999. In addition, the ES has cumulatively assessed other proposed developments including the Electrical Connection required for the WEC, as agreed with WCBC.
- 1.6. The Scheme comprises:

- a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power station (the '*Power Station Complex*') (work numbered 1 in Schedule 1 to the Order) which would be fuelled by natural gas and would have a gross rated electrical output of up to 299 megawatts (MWe);
- temporary and permanent Laydown Areas (works numbered 2A and 2B respectively in Schedule 1 to the Order);
- surface water drainage works (work numbered 3 in Schedule 1 to the Order);
- the landscape and ecological mitigation works (work numbered 4 in Schedule 1 to the Order); and
- the alteration and use of the Kingmoor Park Access Road from Bryn Lane (work numbered 5 in Schedule 1 to the Order)

(together identified as the '*Power Station Complex Site*'); and

- the Gas Pipeline and an Above Ground Installation (AGI) (the '*Gas Connection*').

- 1.7. The Power Station Complex will occupy a site known as Kingmoor Park South, on the north-eastern side of the WIE, adjacent to Bryn Lane and to the north of a large logistics warehouse and distribution centre operated by XPO Logistics. The Gas Connection Route is approximately 3.5km in length and would largely cross agricultural land, connecting to the AGI Site adjacent to the existing Maelor Gas Works to the south of the WIE.
- 1.8. The Electrical Connection is not part of the Application, but will be required for the export of electricity.
- 1.9. An updated *Grid Connection Statement* submitted by WPL in June 2016 [OD-006] confirms that the distribution network operator, SPEN, has made a connection offer to the Applicant to export electricity into SPEN's 132kV network via underground cables from the Power Station Complex Site to the Legacy substation south-west of Wrexham. No new overhead lines are required for the export of electricity from the Scheme.
- 1.10. The detailed specification of the 132 kV underground connection will be determined at a later date by SPEN in its capacity as the statutory undertaker for electrical infrastructure in the area. Any works associated with the underground connection will be consented through the appropriate lawful consenting regime and will be the responsibility of SPEN.

PURPOSE OF THIS STATEMENT

- 1.11. This statement provides the Applicant's comments on a late representation from Mr Briggs, which was published at 1800 on 10 January 2017. The Applicant made the majority of the response at Deadline 8 in The Applicant's response to Chris Briggs' late response to Rule 17 letter dated 12 December 2016 [REP8-010]. Where possible, the Applicant's comments cross-refer to earlier submissions in order to avoid repetition.

2. Applicant's comments on Deadline 7 submissions

CHRIS BRIGGS

Summary of the submission

- 2.1. The Applicant has responded to this submission [REP7-019] in its Response to Rule 17 letter dated 12 December 2016 [REP8-010], submitted at Deadline 8. The Applicant wishes to make a number of additional points due to the time constraints in responding to the late submission.

Applicant's response

a). visibility of plumes

- 2.2. This point has been responded to in the Applicant's Response to the Rule 17 letter, dated 12 December 2016 [REP7-009] and in response to Mr Briggs' late response to the Rule 17 letter [REP8-010].

b). noise abatement and proximity to residential properties

- 2.3. The Applicant has explained the noise assessment and conclusions in:
- Chapter 9 of the ES: Noise and vibration [APP-057]
 - Response to the ExA's First Written Questions [REP1-032]
 - Response to Relevant Representations [REP1-035]
 - Response to Written Representations [REP2-010]
 - Written summary of oral case put at the Issue Specific Hearing on Environmental and Other Issues on 29 September 2016 [REP3-016]
 - Comments on submissions made at Deadline 3 [REP4-009]
 - Comments on submissions made at Deadline 4 [REP5-002]
 - Written summary of oral submissions put at the Issue Specific Hearing on the Environment and Other Issues held on 23 November 2016 [REP6-009]
- 2.4. Mr Briggs quotes from the Rocksavage Power Station's environmental permit which states, "*The site is close to residential properties and noise abatement is important*". The Applicant has assessed the effects of noise and vibration and reported it in Chapter 9 of the ES, which concludes that during operation there will

be no likely significant environmental effects. Further, noise will need to be considered during detailed design and approved in accordance with Requirement 2 of the dDCO [REP7-011] and will also be assessed in the application for the environmental permit which is submitted to and approved by NRW.

- 2.5. There is no statutory minimum distance between a power station and residential properties. As a matter of record Rocksavage Power Station is a larger power station with a taller stack than is proposed by the Applicant and the minimum distance between it and the nearest residential property is less than 450m. The distance between the Rocksavage Power Station and the nearest school is less than 400m. For information, the distance between Marchwood Power Station and the nearest residential property is 300m.
- 2.6. In contrast, the Power Station Complex, for which the DCO Application has been examined, is 625m from the nearest residential property and 900m from the nearest school.