



Meeting note

File reference	EN010055 Wrexham Energy Centre project
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	4 December 2014
Meeting with	Wrexham Power Limited
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	<u>The Planning Inspectorate</u> Tracey Williams (Case Manager) Helen Lancaster (Senior EIA and Land Rights Adviser) Louise Evans (Case Officer) <u>The applicant</u> Rupert Wood (Wrexham Energy Limited) Abbas Raza (Local Dialogue) Jon Gateley (Savills) David Palmer (Savills)
Meeting objectives	Update on progress of Wrexham Energy Centre Project, as well as to discuss responses from recent statutory consultation and potential future submission dates
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Project Update

The applicant gave an update on the progress of the project since the last teleconference held on 7 July 2014.

The applicant confirmed its position that the electrical connection would not form part of the DCO. Discussions have been on-going with Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN), who will be providing a technical report, and the applicant will be meeting SPEN again in January 2015. The applicant is working towards completion of its Grid Connection Statement, and confirmed that the impacts of the electrical connection will be considered in the cumulative effects section of the Environmental Statement.

Intended date of submission of application and draft documents

The applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) agreed to update the intended submission date on the Wrexham Energy Centre project page to Quarter 1 of 2015. The applicant indicated that draft documents will be submitted towards the end of January or early February 2015, the exact dates to be confirmed in January 2015.

PINS advised the applicant on the draft documents they expected to receive (Consultation Report, Draft DCO, Book of Reference, Grid Connection Statement, Habitats Regulations Assessment, etc.), and confirmed that 6 weeks should be allowed for a full review, which would include a follow up face to face meeting.

The applicant advised that a draft version of its Consultation Report is near completion, and asked if it would be acceptable to submit this prior to the other draft documents. PINS confirmed that this would be acceptable, and advised the applicant to include the full suite of consultation appendices with the report.

The applicant acknowledged that feedback given by PINS recently on the draft documents for the applicant's other project (Meaford Energy Centre) has been beneficial, and would contribute to the drafting of the application documents for this project.

Responses from consultation

In the recent period of statutory consultation, approximately two thirds of the statutory organisations, including Welsh Government, did not respond to their S.42 consultation, although responses were received from some local authorities, SPEN and National Grid.

Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) responded that the applicant's approach to landscape and visual matters was 'satisfactory', and had no objections to the methodology, although mitigation would need to be covered in the Environmental Statement. The applicant stated that Cheshire West and Cheshire Council had raised concerns over potential emissions. Shropshire Council did not respond to S.42 consultation.

According to the applicant, local exhibitions were 'well attended' and over 70 responses were received from the local community in writing (letters and e-mails) in response to the S.47 and S.48 consultations. The main issues arising from these were related to the electrical connection, air quality, landscape/visual impact, in particular the close proximity to the B5023, and the location of the power station, as well as responses from individuals who were opposed to the construction of a power station in general.

The applicant advised, in response to these issues, that air quality effects would be assessed in detail in the Environmental Statement and that further safeguards would be applied through the Environmental Permit for the project. A landscape plan is

currently under development. The applicant also confirmed that information on the electrical connection option was included in the consultation with the local community, in order to facilitate wider understanding of this option.

A meeting has been arranged between the applicant and Wrexham County Borough Council for 7 January 2015 to discuss the recent statutory consultation.

Environmental and technical issues

The applicant confirmed that Natural Resource Wales (NRW) response to the project so far has been 'comprehensive'. Concerns have been raised by NRW on potential emissions from the proposed development, and that further confidence was needed on the applicant's proposed mitigation. Meetings and telephone conversations have been held between the applicant and NRW on these and other environmental issues. PINS advised the applicant to provide the details and minutes of these meetings as a part of the Environmental Statement. The applicant agreed with this approach.

The applicant confirmed that as it no longer proposes to place new pylons along the southern route, issues relating to potential European sites and otters would no longer be relevant, and this would be explained in the Environmental Statement.

PINS highlighted the potential issue of other protected species, including bats and great crested newts, which had been raised previously by NRW. The applicant confirmed that the mitigation of these had been discussed in meetings with NRW, and had reached an agreement with them over the required provisions.

The applicant confirmed that they would be using the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach in relation to design and technology.

The applicant has decided on air cooling as the most appropriate option.

As Wrexham Energy Centre's output is intended to have an electrical generation capacity of up to 299 MW_e, PINS advised the applicant to monitor the progress of Hirwaun Power Station and Progress Power Station (both also 299 MW_e), as requirements are now to be added to these project's DCOs to ensure that power outputs will remain at this level. PINS also advised the applicant of a recently published Advice Note on drafting the DCO.

The applicant confirmed that it is aware of this recent trend and is being advised on the drafting of the DCO by Pinsent Masons. It also has the benefit of feedback from PINS on draft documents for other projects.

Statements of Common Ground

PINS advised that, if the application was accepted for examination, the chosen Examining Authority may ask for Statements of Common Ground (SOCG) as part of the Rule 6 letter. This is earlier than usually previously requested, but that it was used to define potential lines of questioning.

The applicant confirmed that although work on SOCGs had not yet commenced, they would do so once the application had been submitted, as they would then be in possession of all agreements. At the meeting with WCBC on 7 January 2015 (as mentioned above) the progress and requirements from both parties in relation to the SOCG be a topic of discussion.

Round Table Meeting

PINS advised that a Round Table meeting held with local stakeholders would be beneficial, in order to inform key statutory parties of the services PINS would provide, and what would be required from them as consultees during the planning process, as well as to facilitate discussion on the key issues of the project so far.

PINS also confirmed that Round Table meetings had been held for other projects such as Hirwaun Power and the Port Talbot Steelworks, and overall had been positively received by all attendees.

The applicant agreed with this approach, and confirmed that it would contact PINS in January 2015 to progress the necessary arrangements.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

- The applicant will make contact with PINS after its meeting with Wrexham County Borough Council on 7 January 2015 to give definite dates for the submission of their draft documents, as well as to make arrangements for the Round Table meeting.
- PINS, in agreement with the applicant, will update the intended date of submission on their website for this project to Quarter 1 of 2015.