



Meeting note

File reference	EN010059/EN010060
Status	Final
Author	Karl-Jonas Johansson
Date	30 June 2016
Meeting with	Stag Energy
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Tom Carpen (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Karl-Jonas Johansson (Case Officer)
	Stag Energy Chris McKerrow (Stag Energy) Murray Davies (Stag Energy)
Meeting objectives	Advice regarding Non-Material Changes to the Hirwaun and Progress Power Development Consent Orders
Circulation	All attendees.

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Introduction

The meeting was held under The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) openness policy along with the requirement under s.51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) for the Inspectorate to publish any advice it provides on making an application. Advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the applicant (or others) can rely.

Potential changes to the orders

The applicant set out its proposed changes, which it considers to be non material.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it has not yet concluded the exact number of turbines that will be constructed at the site. Nonetheless, through the procurement process, it has become apparent that in order to construct the one turbine solution, minor alterations need to be made to some of the parameters and locations of various structures consented by the Order. However, the technical specifications however for this turbine model would require a larger turbine hall than the ones granted in the Development Consent Orders (DCO) for the two projects.

The new dimensions for the turbine halls would be 19m x 40 x 50 compared to the consented 19m x 30m x 30m. The Applicant further advised that the stacks width

would need to be changed too. At Progress, there is a need to increase the width of the flue stack from 8.4 metres to 11 metres up to a height of 16.5 metres and 8.4 metres to 10 metres from 16.5 metres to 30 metres. For Hirwaun, there is a need to increase the width of the flue stack from 10 metres to 11 metres up to a height of 16.5 metres. The gas receiving station and gas treatment compound heights for the projects would need to increase from 3 metres to 5 metres. The applicant also stated a preference to split the compound into two buildings, though the overall footprint for the compound would be reduced.

Further to these changes the applicant informed the Inspectorate that they would seek to amend the Hirwaun works package which includes the switchyard to reflect the reduction in overall footprint of a 1 unit solution

Change application

The Applicant confirmed that it would submit a report with the application explaining why it considers the changes would not impact on what had been assessed in the environmental statement; clean and track changed DCOs; and photomontages.

The Applicant further confirmed that it would seek the Secretary of State's (SoS) permission to reduce the list of consultees for the project and indicated that they would like to exclude category 3 parties that had rights relating to the main site and any statutory party that did not engage in the original examinations.

The Inspectorate advised the applicant to consider whether the category 3 parties might be impacted by visual impacts before removing them from their consultee list.

The Inspectorate agreed to review the Applicant's consultee list before it was submitted to the SoS.

The Inspectorate advised the applicant to make the host authorities aware of the application and to seek the Environment Agency's and Natural Resources Wales' views on the changes to the dimensions before submitting the application.

Timescales

The applicant explained that they were hoping to have a decision from the SoS before the capacity auctions in December 2016. The Inspectorate highlighted that the Non-Material Change request process does not have any statutory timescales but clarified that the guidance states that a decision can be expected after 6 weeks.

The applicant stated that subject to the holiday season, they were intending to submit their application to the SoS week commencing 4 July 2016 with the intention to publish their consultation notices on the 22 July 2016.

The consultation period is expected to be 30-31 days. The Inspectorate clarified that its role in the application stage was to host the application on its website and handling consultation responses rather than being the decision maker.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

- The Inspectorate to contact the Department of Energy and Climate Change to seek further information about timescales and who will handle the application.