



Meeting note

File reference	EN010059 / EN010060
Status	Final
Author	Emma Fitzpatrick
Date	22 July 2013
Meeting with	Hirwaun Power Limited and Progress Power Limited
Venue	Temple Quay House, Bristol
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Tracey Williams (Case Manager) Oliver Blower (Case Manager) Helen Lancaster (Senior EIA Advisor) Robert Hanson (Lawyer) Patrycja Pikniczka (Case Officer) Emma Fitzpatrick (Assistant Case Officer)
	Applicant Normal Campbell (Stag Energy) Chris Girdham (Peter Brett Associates LLP) Chris Leach (Parsons Brinckerhoff) Robin Hutchison (Pinsent Masons)
Meeting objectives	For the applicant to outline their approach to the Rochdale Envelope and draft Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate.
Circulation	All Attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Introduction

The Planning Inspectorate outlined its openness policy and ensured the applicant understood that any issues discussed and advice given would be recorded and placed on the Planning Inspectorate's website under s.51 of the Planning Act 2008. Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the applicant (or others) can rely.

Overview

The applicant is seeking development consent for two 299MW power stations; one located in the Hirwaun Industrial Estate, near Aberdare and the other in the Eye Industrial Estate, Mid Suffolk.

In the meeting, the applicant outlined their hypothetical approach to using the Rochdale Envelope and applying it when drafting their DCO's. For both projects it is envisaged that a similar approach would be taken, therefore the discussions were not related or tied directly to one project.

Approach to the Rochdale Envelope

The applicant is currently considering different types of technologies for power generation. To facilitate discussion, the applicant used the open cycle gas turbine (OCGT) option as an example, however this technology has not been decided on and other options are still being considered. The applicant explained that this option (OCGT) is further broken down into different types – aero-derivative and industrial. The different types of OCGT technologies give rise to different building footprints and require uniform stack heights. Therefore the applicant is seeking to build in flexibility to their DCO, to enable the finer details of power generation and design to be tendered after consent (if granted).

Approach to drafting the Development Consent Order

The applicant outlined their current approach to drafting the development consent orders. They predict using project parameters to describe the power generation plant (e.g. maximum number of turbines and maximum dimensions) and limits of deviation to limit the location of where elements of the projects will appear on the site. The applicant discussed referencing areas of the site on the works plans in the DCO, on which certain elements of the project will be situated therefore allowing for a certain degree of flexibility.

Consultation and Environmental Impact Assessment

The Planning Inspectorate enquired about the approach that the applicant would take to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) when using the above approach.

The applicant confirmed that they would be assessing the worst case scenario. The applicant explained they anticipate one scenario will represent the worst case for all or most topics and this scenario will be assessed. In the event that another scenario was potentially the worst case for a particular topic, it would be assessed as well for that topic. An explanation of why a scenario is the worst case for each topic would be provided. The Planning Inspectorate advised that it would be prudent to explain all potential scenarios and justify the approach to assessment so as to provide clarity to an Examining Authority should the applications be submitted and accepted.

With regards to consultation, the Planning Inspectorate emphasised the importance of consultation being meaningful and ensuring that members of the public understand the different elements of the project fully and all the options.

After full consultation and upon submission, the applicant intends to have narrowed the options for electrical and gas connections. The applicant will also have decided upon a technology to be used for power generation before submission although flexibility over the technology sub-type (for example aero-derivative and industrial units for OCGT) will be required.

The applicant expects to consult formally on the Progress Power Station in September, with consultation on the Hirwaun Power Station beginning a month after.

Timescales Any Other Business

The Planning Inspectorate outlined to the applicant the importance of submitting draft documents for comments before formal submission of the DCO application. It is usual for 6 weeks to be built into the applicant's project timescales in order to receive these comments from the Planning Inspectorate and further time to consider the comments fully. The Planning Inspectorate advised that it is common to review the draft DCO and explanatory memorandum, consultation report, plans, grid connection statement and book of reference (if required).

Specific decisions / follow up required?

N/A