



Overview - Transboundary screening undertaken by the Secretary of State	
Project name:	Internal Power Generation Enhancement for Port Talbot Steelworks
Address/Location:	Port Talbot Steelworks, Port Talbot, Neath Port Talbot, South Wales
Planning Inspectorate Ref:	EN010062
Date(s) screening undertaken:	First screening completed on 26 November 2013, following the applicant's request for a scoping opinion
EEA States identified for notification:	First screening: none identified

FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE	
Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:	Tata Steel UK Ltd: Internal Power Generation Enhancement for Port Talbot Steelworks - Scoping Report – September 2013
Date	26.11.13
Screening Criteria:	Secretary of State Comments:
Characteristics of the Development	<p>The proposed development comprises the construction of new power generation facilities which would be housed in a new building on the existing Port Talbot site adjacent to the existing power generation facilities, together with new gas, steam and utilities network pipes, and a new electrical connection. Some elements of the existing generation facilities would be decommissioned. The site area is 19.2ha.</p> <p>The primary fuel for the proposed development would be gases formed as a by-product of the steelmaking process on-site, with imported natural gas being used as a standby fuel. The process gases and natural gas would be redistributed by extending existing pipework, and the quantity of the gases currently being flared would be reduced. The total onsite power generation capacity, inclusive of the proposed development, would be increased to a maximum of 225MWe. An average power generation of approximately 130MWe would result in a reduction of grid import of 40MWe to 10MWe.</p> <p>The main elements of the proposed development comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two new boilers (nominally 164MWth each); • two new steam turbines (nominally 65MWe each); • one or two stacks (up to 120m high); • cooling towers up to 22m high x 160m long and 16m wide; • turbine hall up to 25m high x 55m long x 65m wide; • boiler house up to 35m high (at apex) x 60m long x 65m wide; • wide; • transformer compound up to 35m long x 55m wide;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new gas, steam and utilities network pipes; • a new 66kv electrical connection cable to an existing onsite substation. <p>Other elements of the proposed development include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • smaller standalone buildings; • tanks; • a pump house; • a control building. <p>The proposed cooling tower/s would run in a closed loop where the water used in the turbine condensers is cooled and then recycled. The cooling process will require the abstraction of water from the River Afan and discharge to Swansea Bay.</p> <p>The new pipework for the proposed development would be an extension to the existing pipework for the existing generation facilities, gas distribution, steam and utilities network. The electricity connection cable would connect to an existing substation approximately 2.8km to the south east. The method of connecting the cable is to be confirmed but would be either via undergrounding or existing overhead infrastructure, or a combination of both.</p> <p>The construction phase is likely to last approximately three years and the indicative operational lifespan is anticipated to be 35 years, after which the proposed development would be either decommissioned, potentially extended, or potentially replaced and refurbished.</p>
<p>Geographical area</p>	<p>The extent of the area of likely impact under the jurisdiction of another EEA State has not been provided in the Scoping Report.</p>
<p>Location of Development (including existing use)</p>	<p>The proposed site is on urban low-lying industrial land in Neath Port Talbot, South Wales, approximately 1.5km to the south east of Port Talbot town. The main generating structures of the proposed development would be located in the north of the site adjacent to existing power generation facilities, which is currently open scrub land with a park/concrete hardstanding in the northwest. The site is located within an area of recorded mining and four seams of coal are present within the site, which were last worked in 1913. The proposed development is not in a zone of influence of any existing workings.</p> <p>The surrounding landscape is predominantly residential, urban and industrial, with associated roads and highways. Immediately adjacent to the northeast of the site is an active railway line. The Port Talbot Peripheral Distributor Road is directly to the north of the area of the site where the main generating facilities are proposed to be located, with the existing Port Talbot works to the east, an internal railway line (owned by Network Rail) to the south, and the existing power station to the west. The Port Talbot Docks Industrial Area and Port Talbot Parkway station adjoin the Port Talbot site to the</p>

	<p>northwest. The A48 lies just to the east of the application site running parallel to the M4.</p> <p>Settlements located nearby the application site include Taibach, about 0.7km from the site, and Margam which is about 1.5km away. A lake used for the steel works cooling lies 200m to the west, and the coast is 1.8km to the west.</p>
<p>Cumulative impacts</p>	<p>References to the assessment of cumulative effects are made in the following sections of the Scoping Report:</p> <p>5: Air Quality 7: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 11: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage 14: Surface Water Environment</p> <p>The developer anticipates at this stage that, in relation to cumulative effects consideration will be given to the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon Scheme and a proposed wind farm at Mynydd Brombil (proximity to proposed development not identified). Section 2 of the Scoping Report: <i>Environmental Impact Assessment</i> notes that the developer will seek to agree the number and location of cumulative developments to be assessed as part of ongoing consultation, and subject to agreement with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).</p> <p>Neither of the projects identified at this stage are within another EEA State.</p>
<p>Carrier</p>	<p>Potential impact pathways include disturbance or disruption of species and/or the transport of pollutants by air, water and land.</p>
<p>Environmental Importance</p>	<p>The Margam/Taibach Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), declared due to PM₁₀ concentrations, is located directly to the north of the application site. It covers the majority of land and properties between the steelworks and the M4.</p> <p>Three Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), one Ramsar site, eleven Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), and two National Nature Reserves (NNRs) lie within 10km of the site. The European sites are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenfig SAC - designated for its dunes, dune slacks, fen orchid, petalwort, lakes with charophytes, and Atlantic salt meadows - 5.3km southeast • Crymlyn Bog SAC and Ramsar - designated for its transition mires and quaking bogs, fens and alluvial forests, and associated fauna - 6.8km north west • Cefn Cribwr Grasslands SAC - designated for its Molinia meadows and marsh fritillary butterfly - 9.9km east south east

	<p>No archaeological designations, listed buildings, Scheduled Monuments or registered park and gardens are located within the site boundary. 61 heritage and archaeological assets were recorded within 1km of the centre of the site. These include three Scheduled Monuments, one Registered Park and Garden at Talbot Memorial Park, and three listed buildings.</p> <p>The developers note in the Scoping Report that discussion with NPTCBC and NRW about environmental considerations is ongoing.</p>
Extent	At this stage no impacts have been identified which are likely to lead to significant effects on another EEA Member State.
Magnitude	At this stage no impacts have been identified which are likely to lead to significant effects on another EEA Member State.
Probability	At this stage no impacts have been identified which are likely to lead to significant effects on another EEA Member State.
Duration	At this stage no impacts have been identified which are likely to lead to significant effects on another EEA Member State.
Frequency	At this stage no impacts have been identified which are likely to lead to significant effects on another EEA Member State.
Reversibility	At this stage no impacts have been identified which are likely to lead to significant effects on another EEA Member State.

Transboundary screening undertaken by the Secretary of State

Under Regulation 24 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the EIA Regulations) and on the basis of the current information available from the Applicant, the Secretary of State is of the view that the proposed development **is not likely** to have a significant effect on the environment in another EEA State.

In reaching this view the Secretary of State has applied the precautionary approach (as explained in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 12: Transboundary Impacts Consultation); and taken into account the information currently supplied by the Applicant.

Action: No further action required at this stage

Date: 26.11.13

Note: The Secretary of State's duty under Regulation 24 of the EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.

Note:

1. The Secretary of State's screening of transboundary issues is based on the relevant considerations specified in Annex 4 to Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 12 available on the Planning Inspectorate's website at <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>