

# Planning Act 2008

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

## The Port Talbot Steelworks (Power Generation Enhancement) Order

### 10.02 Planning Statement Summary

<b>PINS Reference</b>	EN010062	
<b>Document No.</b>	10.02	
<b>Regulation</b>	5(2)(q)	
<b>Author</b>	GVA	
<b>Revision</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
0	July 2014	Submission Version

---

## CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
1.1	Project Overview.....	3
1.2	The Applicant.....	4
1.3	Purpose of the Planning Statement.....	4
1.4	Location.....	4
1.5	Project Detail.....	5
1.6	Composition of the DCO Application.....	7
<b>2</b>	<b>Planning Policy Context</b> .....	<b>8</b>
2.1	National Policy Statements (NPS).....	8
2.2	Planning Policy Wales (PPW).....	8
2.3	Technical Advice Notes (TANs).....	9
2.4	Other Relevant National Planning Policy.....	9
2.5	Local Planning Policy.....	9
2.6	Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG).....	10
2.7	Emerging Planning Policy: Local Development Plan (LDP).....	10
<b>3</b>	<b>Planning Assessment</b> .....	<b>11</b>
3.1	Decision Making.....	11
3.2	Assessment.....	11
<b>4</b>	<b>Conclusion</b> .....	<b>13</b>

---

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Project Overview

- 1.1.1 This document has been prepared as a summary to the Planning Statement which supports an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) ('the Application') for the proposed enhancement of existing power generation facilities (hereafter known as the 'proposed development') at the Port Talbot Steelworks in South Wales, owned and operated by Tata Steel UK Limited (the Applicant).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the installation of up to two new boilers (nominally 164 Mega Watt thermal (MWth) each) and associated new steam turbine sets to be housed in a new building with a gross capacity of up to 150 Mega Watt electrical (MWe), which would be connected to the existing process gases (i.e. blast furnace gas, etc) distribution network in order to receive these gases through new pipe work, all to be located within the Order Limits.
- 1.1.3 It is anticipated that the proposed development would improve efficiency and increase the on-site power generation capacity up to a maximum of 245 MWe. This would result in an average power generation of approximately 130 MWe (due to the variable cycle of process gas production on-site), which in turn would result in a reduction of grid import to 10 MWe (a decrease of 55Mwe). The estimated amount of flared process gases would significantly reduce by 4.3 PJ to approximately 0.5 PJ per annum.
- 1.1.4 Given that the proposed development comprises an electricity generating station with a capacity of more than 50MW, it constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under section 15 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008). Accordingly, it requires development consent under section 31 of the PA 2008.

---

## 1.2 The Applicant

1.2.1 Tata Steel UK Limited is the Applicant for the DCO and has operated the Port Talbot site (an integrated steelmaking site using imported raw materials) since it purchased Corus UK Limited in 2007. The site produces hot rolled and cold rolled steel for use in the flat products steel markets.

## 1.3 Purpose of the Planning Statement

1.3.1 The Planning Statement (Document Reference 10.1) acts as the primary reference document for an explanation of the policy support for the proposed development in addition to the pertinent planning issues and a description of how the DCO application addresses these.

1.3.2 The Planning Statement forms part of the suite of documents accompanying the application submitted in accordance with Sections 37 and 55 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 5 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) (IP) Regulations (2009).

1.3.3 The planning policy context applicable to the proposed development is detailed in the Planning Statement. The principle policy documents comprise the relevant National Policy Statements, in addition to other national and local policies that form material planning considerations.

1.3.4 The Planning Statement assesses the proposed development in accordance with the policy criteria and concludes as to the overall acceptability of this DCO application in accordance with the decision making framework established in Section 104 of the PA 2008.

## 1.4 Location

1.4.1 The Port Talbot steelworks is located wholly within the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot and extends to a total of 1005.5 hectares, which comprises all of the

---

major components of the steelworks, together with the ancillary structures/buildings. The proposed development site sits within the steelworks site and extends to a total of 22.9ha.

1.4.2 The location of the proposed development is shown on the Site Location Plan submitted with the DCO (Document Reference 2.01) and included at Appendix A of the Planning Statement.

1.4.3 The steelworks site itself is not subject to any specific land use designations or planning constraints. However, an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) is located directly to the northeast and east of the proposed development; there are two Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest designations located to northeast and to the south; within 10km of the Order Limits, there are a number of ecological designations; there are also some archaeological designations, listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments and registered parks and gardens located within the surrounding area to the proposed development.

## 1.5 Project Detail

1.5.1 The proposed development comprises the following major components and ancillary buildings:

- up to two steam boilers and their associated stacks (maximum 80m in height), annexe bay and boiler house;
- a turbine hall housing turbine sets and associated condensers;
- cooling tower units;
- an electrical switchgear station building;
- a condensate storage tank and additional condensate polishing units;
- water treatment plant and chemical dosing system skids;
- administration, workshop, pump house, gas booster house, control buildings and ancillary infrastructure;

- the extension of existing pipe work connections (for water, nitrogen, process gases, natural gas and compressed air) from the existing on site utilities pipe work infrastructure to the generating station;
- a 66kV electrical connection up to 2.8km in length to connect the generating station to the existing on-site substations on the southeast of the site;
- modifications to the two existing on-site substations to accept the electrical connection including the installation of new 66kV bays at each substation;
- security infrastructure, including perimeter fencing and site lighting infrastructure;
- connections to the existing internal road layout for the provision of site vehicular access(es), roads, pedestrian network, parking and cycle storage;
- temporary construction compounds; and
- connection to site drainage systems.

1.5.2 Smaller standalone buildings and structures are also included in the proposed development. These comprise tanks, pump house for cooling water pumps for the cooling towers, booster house for process gases supply to the boilers, switch gear housing, electrical control room for cooling towers and for the power station. There is also a motor control centre building housing electrical drives, computer system and an operator's control centre.

1.5.3 The proposed development has the potential to be delivered in a single phase of construction or over two phases. Option 1 would involve the full and complete construction of the proposed development over 36 months. Option 2 would involve half the proposed development (one stack, one boiler and associated turbine sets) being installed in an initial phase of 36 months (Phase 1), followed by Option 2 Phase 2 of 24 months which would involve the second and complete installation of the second stack, boiler and associated turbine sets. Phase 2 could occur up to 10 years after the commencement of development of Phase 1.

---

## 1.6 Composition of the DCO Application

- 1.6.1 The legislative requirements for DCO applications are contained within the PA 2008, the IP Regulations (2009) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations.
- 1.6.2 This DCO application submission complies with the requirements of the PA 2008, the IP Regulations (2009), the EIA Regulations and the applicable Secretary of State (SoS) and Planning Inspectorate guidance, including in particular Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 6 (Preparation and submission of application documents, June 2012).
- 1.6.3 A number of commitments are made in the DCO application which take the form of DCO Requirements (contained within Schedule 2 to the Draft DCO, Document Reference 3.01), and a suite of documents which are 'for approval' alongside the plans. These requirements assist to mitigate any adverse environmental impacts that may be caused by the scheme, and where these requirements work to make the Application more acceptable in planning terms, this is set out in the Planning Statement.

---

## 2 Planning Policy Context

### 2.1 National Policy Statements (NPS)

2.1.1 The PA 2008 requires that any DCO application is decided in accordance with any relevant NPS, with certain exceptions. For this proposal, the relevant national policies contained within those NPSs are outlined below:

- NPS for Energy (EN – 1) (July 2011) – **The overarching NPS relevant to the proposed development**
- NPS for Fossil Fuel Electricity Generating Infrastructure (EN – 2)
- NPS for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (EN – 4)
- NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN – 5)

### 2.2 Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

2.2.1 The Welsh Government (WG) issued the sixth edition of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) in February 2014. PPW sets out the land use planning policies of the WG and translates the WG's commitment to sustainable development into the planning system. The following Chapters are of relevance to this DCO application:

- Chapter 4: Planning for Sustainability
- Chapter 5: Conserving & Improving Natural Heritage & The Coast
- Chapter 6: Conserving the Historic Environment
- Chapter 7: Economic Development
- Chapter 8: Transport
- Chapter 11: Tourism, Sports and Recreation
- Chapter 12: Infrastructure & Services
- Chapter 13: Minimising & Managing Environmental Risks & Pollution

---

## 2.3 Technical Advice Notes (TANs)

2.3.1 PPW is supplemented by a series of TANs. A range of these apply to the proposed development, and their specific provisions are addressed through the technical chapters of the Environmental Statement (ES) submitted in support of the planning application. Relevant TANs include:

- Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning
- Technical Advice Note 8: Renewable Energy
- Technical Advice Note 11: Noise
- Technical Advice Note 12: Design
- Technical Advice Note 14: Coastal Planning
- Technical Advice Note 15: Development and Flood Risk
- Technical Advice Note 18: Transport
- Technical Advice Note 21: Waste
- Technical Advice Note 23: Economic Development

## 2.4 Other Relevant National Planning Policy

- The Wales Spatial Plan (2008)
- Environment Strategy for Wales (2006)

## 2.5 Local Planning Policy

2.5.1 The statutory development plan applicable to the proposed development is the Neath Port Talbot Unitary Development Plan (NPTUDP) (adopted March 2008).

2.5.2 The strategic policies within Part 1 of the UDP reflect the key objectives of the Council. Those policies listed in Part 2 relate to technical and detailed matters.

2.5.3 The Port Talbot steelworks complex is not subject to any specific land use allocations and lies outside the defined settlement boundary for Port Talbot.

## **2.6 Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)**

2.6.1 The following SPG documents are considered to be relevant to the determination of this DCO application:

- Biodiversity (July 2008)
- Landscape (July 2008)

## **2.7 Emerging Planning Policy: Local Development Plan (LDP)**

2.7.1 In terms of emerging planning policy, the NPTUDP will remain the adopted development plan until it is superseded by the LDP, which is scheduled for adoption in 2015.

---

## 3 Planning Assessment

### 3.1 Decision Making

3.1.1 DCO applications are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) who examine the applications and then make a recommendation to the SoS as to whether consent should be granted.

3.1.2 Section 104 of the PA 2008 provides that, in making decisions on DCO applications, the SoS must have regard to any relevant NPSs and must decide applications in accordance with it unless the adverse impacts of the proposed development would outweigh its benefits (or in certain other limited circumstances).

### 3.2 Assessment

3.2.1 The assessment of the proposed development has been undertaken in accordance with the following assessment criteria contained within the relevant NPSs:

- NPS for Energy (EN – 1)
- NPS for Fossil Fuel Electricity Generating Infrastructure (EN – 2)
- NPS for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (EN – 4)
- NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN – 5)

3.2.2 In addition to the NPSs, the relevant national and local planning policy is also applicable to the assessment of this DCO. The applicable policies have been listed below for ease of reference:

#### National Policy

- PPW (Edition 6)
- TANs 5, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 21 & 23

### [Local Policy](#)

3.2.3 The Planning Statement sets out the local planning policy set out in the NPTUDP and considered to be of relevance to the DCO.

---

## 4 Conclusion

- 4.1.1 The proposed development has been devised in order to improve the energy and economic efficiency of the steelworks, allowing for the Applicant to remain cost competitive. This is crucial to support the viability of the steelworks site as a whole and secure the longevity of the site operations.
- 4.1.2 The principle of constructing an extension to this existing operational facility is clearly acceptable from a planning policy perspective – at national and local levels. The project is a key investment in the future of the steel industry in South Wales and will assist in meeting the Government’s objectives for reducing carbon emissions.
- 4.1.3 The proposed development would have a number of net benefits including:
- Air quality improvements through the reduction in flared process gases;
  - Saving of up to approximately 400,000 tonnes per annum of CO<sub>2</sub> compared to grid generators (based on generation from coal fired stations);
  - Reduced (by approximately 80%) on-site electricity imports (to 10MWe on average);
  - Increased operational efficiency and reliability of on-site power and steam production; and
  - Increased economic efficiency through cost reduction to protect the long-term future of steelmaking in South Wales.
- 4.1.4 In summary, clear policy justification exists for Development Consent to be granted.