



Overview - Transboundary screening undertaken by the Secretary of State	
Project name:	Meaford Energy Centre
Address/Location:	Meaford Business Park, Meaford, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 0UU
Planning Inspectorate Ref:	EN010064
Date(s) screening undertaken:	First screening – 18 July 2014 following the applicant's request for a scoping opinion Second screening – 18 May 2015 following submission of the application documents
EEA States identified for notification:	First screening: None identified Second screening: None identified

FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE	
Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:	Scoping Report Meaford Energy Centre February 2014 ('the Scoping Report')
Date	22 August 2014
Screening Criteria:	Secretary of State Comments:
Characteristics of the Development	<p>The applicant's Scoping Report describes the project as a combined cycle gas turbine power station with a generating capacity of up to 299 MWe. The project will comprise the power station, the gas pipeline connecting the station to the existing gas network, a connection to the electricity grid and possible associated development such as highways access improvements from Meaford Road.</p> <p>The power station would operate by burning natural gas to drive a gas turbine to generate electrical power. The hot exhaust gases from the gas turbine are then passed to a heat recovery steam generator to produce steam which drives another turbine to generate electrical power.</p> <p>The power station site occupies an area up to 4ha and would comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 3 gas turbines; • A single steam turbine with its own electrical generator • A turbine building (maximum dimensions 45m wide, 60m long, 25m high); • Up to 2 stacks 6m in diameter (maximum height of 50m); • A heat recovery steam generator building (maximum dimensions 15m wide, 30m long and 40m high); and • A cooling system which may use air cooling, once-through cooling (would require continuous abstraction from a water source followed by continuous discharge) or

	<p>hybrid evaporative cooling (water is abstracted continuously then cooled and re-circulated).</p> <p>The power station would also include ancillary structures such as a station control room, offices, stores, water treatment plant, gas receiving station and a switchyard.</p> <p>The electrical connection has not been finalised; the current intention is to connect to the existing electricity distribution network within Meaford Business Park. However if further investigations show that the existing network cannot accommodate the connection either new 132 kV lines would have to be provided or the existing lines would require reinforcement.</p> <p>The gas connection has not been finalised but would run from the power station to the Local Transmission System which runs approximately 50m from the boundary of the business park. This would involve crossing the canal that runs along the eastern boundary of Meaford Business Park, probably overground using one of the canal bridges. Construction of the project would take up to 4 years, with piling and main foundation construction taking approximately 12 months.</p>
Geographical area	Evidence is not provided on this point within the Scoping Report but it seems unlikely that the project would affect a geographical area within the jurisdiction of another EEA State.
Location of Development (including existing use)	The proposed project would be located mainly on Meaford Business Park, near Barlaston in Staffordshire. The current land use of the proposed power station site is largely brownfield and was formerly the site of two coal-fired power stations which were demolished by the mid-1990s. However the proposed development site shown in the Scoping Report extends wider to include woodland and pasture land.
Cumulative impacts	The Scoping Report does not identify other major developments that will be taken into account as this will be defined in discussion with the local authority as the environmental impact assessment is undertaken.
Carrier	No pathways identified which could lead to effects on another EEA State.
Environmental Importance	<p>The location of the proposed development is within 5km of King's and Hargreaves Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), several Local Nature Reserves and various non-statutory wildlife sites. It is within 15km of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site; and • Pasturefields Salt Marsh Special Area of Conservation

	<p>(SAC).</p> <p>The designated features of the Ramsar site and SAC do not include any mobile or migratory species associated with populations in other EEA States. The following designated heritage assets are present within 3km of the proposed development site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trentham Gardens (Registered Park and Garden Grade II) • Multivallate hillfort at Bury Bank (Scheduled Monument)
Extent	Not identified in the Scoping Report. On the basis of the design measures proposed to be built into the development and the implementation of mitigation measures and best practice (in line with regulatory body requirements), no significant effects have been identified which could impact on another EEA Member States.
Magnitude	No impacts identified which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
Probability	No impacts identified which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
Duration	No impacts identified which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
Frequency	No impacts identified which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
Reversibility	No impacts identified which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
<p><u>Transboundary screening undertaken by the Secretary of State</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>No further action required at this stage</p> <p>Date ...22 August 2014.....</p> <p>Note: The Secretary of State's duty under Regulation 24 of the EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.</p>	

SECOND TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Document used for transboundary Screening:	Environmental Statement March 2015 and No Significant Effects Report March 2015
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Date	Re-screened on 18 May 2015 on receipt of application documents
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Transboundary re-screening undertaken by the Secretary of State

Following **submission of the DCO application which included the Environmental Statement and the Applicant's NSER report**, the Secretary of State has reconsidered the transboundary screening decision undertaken on 18 July 2014.

The Secretary of State has identified the following matters that differ from those considered at the time of the previous transboundary screening decision:

- change in the description of the proposed development

Change in the description of the proposed development

Chapter 1 of the applicant's Scoping Report (dated February 2014) stated that the maximum number of gas turbines that would make up the power station was three; however in Chapter 4 of the Environmental Statement (dated March 2015) it is stated that the maximum number of turbines will be two.

In Chapter 1 of the Scoping Report the dimensions of the heat recovery steam generator building are given as 15m wide, 30m long, and 40m high. In Chapter 4 of the Environmental Statement the dimensions have been stated to be 13m wide, 25m long and 35m high.

In Chapter 1 of the Scoping Report little detailed information was provided regarding the proposed Gas Connection. In Chapter 4 of the Environmental Statement key information regarding the Gas Connection has been provided; the connection will be approximately 760m in length and will have a maximum diameter of 450mm.

Secretary of State's Conclusion

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, there is not a change to the previous conclusion, and the Secretary of State remains 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 18 May 2015**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/>