

From: Field, Jane [<mailto:jane.field@environment-agency.gov.uk>]

Sent: 22 June 2015 10:29

To: Meaford Energy Centre

Cc: Dingley, John

Subject: Environment Agency - Relevent Representation

I apologise for the delay in submitting the attached statement in relation to this DCO, please see attached response which outlines the Environment Agency's position with regards to this proposal.

We request that if it is still possible, we are registered as an Interested Party for this scheme.

Apologises again for our late response with regards to this deadline.

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The Planning Inspectorate
The Square Temple Quay
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Avon
BS1 6PN

Our ref: UT/2015/114317/01-L01
Your ref: EN010064
Date: 22 June 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER (DCO) THE MEAFORD ENERGY (GAS FIRED POWER STATION) ORDER

MEAFORD BUSINESS PARK, STAFFORD

The Environment Agency have reviewed the information available and we have the following comments to make on this Development Consent Order.

Flood Risk

The proposed site location falls within Flood Zone 1, comprising land as having a less than 1 in 1000 probability of flooding from rivers or the sea in any year. There is a small section of the site that falls within Flood Zone 3 however the Flood Risk Assessment (6.4.9 Volume 4: Environmental Statement, Appendix 14.1: Level 2 Flood Risk Assessment) states that there will be no development within this area except for a surface water outfall into the River Trent.

The FRA and drainage strategy have been provided within the Environmental Statement and focus on surface water drainage proposals. As the Environment Agency is no longer a statutory consultee on surface water drainage, the Lead Local Flood Authority, Staffordshire County Council, should be consulted on this Development Consent Order to ensure all aspects of surface water drainage have been considered for the proposed development.

Water Quality

Foul drainage is proposed to discharge into the existing mains network at Newcastle Road. Early consultation with Severn Trent Water Ltd needs to demonstrate that there is sufficient capacity within the existing drainage system and treatment works and the increase in loading will not pose a risk of deterioration in water quality within the water environment. It should be noted that there is a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) on Newcastle Road; any increased flows to the combined sewerage system should not increase spill frequency of this facility.

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The River Trent has been designated as Low Importance in the Environmental Statement (Chapter 14: The Water Environment): the ecological status is classed as Poor however the water quality is classed as Good. We query why its deemed as low importance in particular as it used for abstraction purposes downstream and also leisure through Stone: angling and canoeing. As such, any impact on water quality or quantity would have a potentially significant impact on amenity use.

Contaminated land

The following comments relate solely to the protection of 'Controlled Waters'. Matters relating to Human Health should be directed to the relevant department of the local authority.

We understand from paragraph 13.94 of section 6.2.13 Volume 2: Environmental Statement – *Chapter 13: Ground Conditions* that prior to construction a ground investigation will be undertaken to determine the presence of contamination and assess the risks posed to receptors including surface and groundwater. This is supported.

We have no objection to the Schedule 2 Requirements relating to 'Construction and Environment Management Plan', 'Ground Investigation' and 'Piling' as set out in section 3.1 Draft Order for the MEC (Meaford Energy Centre, March 2015). We have no requirement for any further conditions.

Water resources

We understand from paragraph 4.39 of section 6.2.4 Volume 2: Environmental Statement – *Chapter 4: The Proposed Development* that there is no requirement to abstract water from local watercourses or groundwater in order to supply the proposed development. We understand that all required water will be sourced directly from mains water supply. We assume this also means no water will be abstracted from the Trent or any other licensable source for the hydrostatic testing of the gas pipeline. Clarification should be provided should this not be the case.

Flood Defence Consent

Under the terms of the Water Resources Act 1991 and the Midlands Regional Byelaws, the prior written consent of the Environment Agency is required for any proposed works or structures, in, under, over or within 8 metres of the top of the bank of the River Trent, designated a 'main river'.

Please note that we have a 2 month statutory period in which to determine Flood Defence Consents and it should not be assumed that such consent will automatically be forthcoming. We would advise the applicants to consult with us at the earliest opportunity in order to determine and secure formal consent for the proposed works as appropriate.

More information about consents can be found on our website at <https://www.gov.uk/flood-defence-consent-england-wales>

Yours faithfully

Mr John Dingley
Planning Liaison Officer

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