

Meeting note

File reference EN010069

Status Final

Author Ewa Sherman

Date 28 September 2017

Meeting with Abergelli Power Limited

Venue Temple Quay House, Bristol (teleconference)

Attendees Planning Inspectorate

Chris White -Infrastructure Planning Lead

Tracey Williams – Case Manager Ewa Sherman – Case Officer

Emma Cottam - EIA and Land Rights Advisor

Abergelli Power Limited

Chris McKerrow Colette King Grant Young Dermot Scanlon

Meeting objectives

Project update

Circulation All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Welcome and Introductions

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) team introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate outlined its openness policy and ensured that those present understood that any issues discussed and advice given would be recorded and placed on the Inspectorate's website under section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the Applicant (or others) can rely.

Project update

The Applicant provided an update in relation to the project and programme timelines, and confirmed that statutory consultation will be conducted in Q1 of 2018, followed by submission of the DCO application in Q2 of 2018. The Applicant explained that the programme and the submission date are dependent on the next available capacity market auction and therefore they will be reviewing 'lessons learned' from the preapplication stage and review of the draft application documents for the Millbrook Power project which is due to be submitted several months earlier, ahead of Abergelli.

The Applicant intends to be as consistent as possible with the approach taken for the Millbrook Power project when preparing for the Abergelli DCO submission.

Regarding the post-submission programme, the Inspectorate confirmed that although timescales are fixed (apart from the pre-examination stage), the pre-application stage of the project development is essential in the smooth running of the process. It will be essential for the Applicant to undertake effective consultation and for the application to be fit for purpose.

The Applicant advised that landowner negotiations are on-going, with the project's exact redline boundary yet to be confirmed. Environmental surveys are also on-going, with the resulting information to be fed into the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The Applicant is also preparing a draft Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA), which it intends to submit to the Inspectorate for review in early 2018.

In terms of engagement with statutory consultees, the Inspectorate suggested that the Applicant should keep a log of all correspondence. The Inspectorate also advised the Applicant to create a framework of key issues and focus on reaching agreement on these, working with statutory consultees to draft Statements of Common Ground (SoCG), identifying areas of un-common ground too.

The Inspectorate requested to be kept up to date on any consultation events, including feedback and issues raised at these events.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to build time into their programme to allow for a full review of the draft documents. A full review of a suite of draft documents by the Inspectorate normally takes about 4 weeks, followed by a formal meeting. However, this depends on the number of documents and the particular issues raised. The Applicant confirmed their intention to use this service at the beginning of Q2 in 2018.

Welsh Language Scheme

The Inspectorate advised that it has a duty under the Welsh language Scheme with regard to publishing of documents in Welsh. They noted that the bilingual websites for the proposed the Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station and North Wales Connection projects have now been launched.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider which documents they may provide in Welsh. The Applicant may wish to consider translating supporting documents such as the Non-Technical Summary, Explanatory Memorandum, Statement of Reasons and Funding Statement, and others as necessary and proportionate to the project.

Additionally, it would be beneficial if any information about the provision of translated documentation could be included in the Consultation Report to demonstrate how the issues regarding the Welsh language are being addressed during statutory consultation. The Applicant was also advised to inform the Inspectorate about what documents they have or plan to translate into Welsh.

AOB

The Applicant will provide a detailed programme to the Inspectorate for the submission of the application.

The next teleconference will be arranged in December 2017 before the Applicant's statutory consultation begins.