

# Meeting note

File reference EN010069

**Project** Abergelli Power Project

Status Final

**Author** Ewa Sherman

**Date** 15 December 2017 **Meeting with** Abergelli Power Limited

**Venue** Temple Quay House, Bristol (teleconference)

Attendees Planning Inspectorate

Chris White -Infrastructure Planning Lead

Tracey Williams – Case Manager Hefin Jones – Case Manager Ewa Sherman – Case Officer

Emma Cottam - EIA and Land Rights Advisor

Abergelli Power Limited

Chris McKerrow Dermot Scanlon

Kirstin Gardner - Project Manager

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. Hefin Jones was introduced as the new Case Manager for the project, who would be taking over from Tracey Williams. 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 regarding the preparation ahead of its statutory s42 consultation, which is due to commence on 16 January 2018 and close on 19 February 2018. The Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) under s47 of the PA2008 has been completed, following the consultation with Swansea Council whose comments

have been considered and incorporated within the document. The finalised SoCC will be available in both English and Welsh. The Applicant intends to submit s46 notification and all consultation material to the Inspectorate in the week commencing 8 January 2018. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to ensure that the consultation information provided on the Applicant's website and sent to the consultees is consistent throughout and there are no differences between copies of the documents.

The Applicant advised that in terms of the compulsory acquisition a settlement has been negotiated for the main site of the Proposed Development; and they have conducted further surveys of the gas connection route to refine the final red line boundary, which will form the basis for further discussions with the potentially affected landowners. The Applicant's intention is to finalise details and resolve any issues relating to the routes ahead of submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. The Applicant also confirmed its intention to submit the Environmental Permit application to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) at around the same time as the DCO application. NRW are aware of the proposed programme for submission.

The Applicant is advised that if the DCO application is accepted for Examination, the Examining Authority will be seeking assurance that the necessary environmental permit is capable of being granted.

The Inspectorate advised that a full review of a suite of draft application documents takes about 6 to 8 weeks, and the Applicant may wish to consider submitting only those documents that raise new or novel issues. The Applicant is keen to submit the same suite of draft application documents for a review to the Inspectorate as on the Millbrook Power project. These are: the DCO; Explanatory Memorandum; Statement of Reasons; Funding Statement; Book of Reference; Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) No Significant Effects Report; and some Land and Works Plans. The Applicant indicated that these documents would be submitted to the Inspectorate for review in March 2018.

The Applicant noted that the draft HRA will be included in the suite of documents published during the s42 consultation period for review and comment. This will allow the Applicant to address NRW's comments prior to submission of the draft HRA report to the Inspectorate as part of the draft documents review.

The project is on track to be submitted in Q2 of 2018.

#### **Welsh Language Standards**

The Applicant stated that it has reached agreement with Swansea Council regarding the consistent approach to providing project documents bilingually, during the consultation period, and would provide relevant information in leaflets, and on the information boards for the public consultation events.

The Welsh Language Standards require a public body to ensure that translation facilities are present for any event they hold in Wales, regardless of whether anyone has indicated that they wish to speak in Welsh in advance.

Although the Inspectorate is a public body, and is responsible for the running of the events, it is the Applicant's responsibility to arrange venues for Preliminary Meeting

and any hearings and to ensure that the necessary facilities are available. As such the Applicant must provide the translation facilities for all sessions.

### **AOB**

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

A telecon project update meeting will be arranged after the statutory consultation period has ended. The next face-to-face meeting will be arranged after the Inspectorate's review of the draft application documents.