



Meeting note

File reference	EN010081
Status	Final
Author	Tom Carpen
Date	20 July 2016
Meeting with	Eggborough Power Limited
Venue	Planning Inspectorate Offices, Temple Quay, Bristol
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate: Tom Carpen (Infrastructure Planning Lead) David Price (EIA and Land Manager) Eggborough Power Limited James Crankshaw (Eggborough Power Limited) Jason Morris (Eggborough Power Limited) Geoff Bullock (Dalton Warner Davis LLP) Richard Lowe (AECOM) Nick McDonald (Pinsent Masons)
Meeting objectives	Initial meeting
Circulation	All attendees.

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Introduction

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate continued by outlining its openness policy and ensured those present understood that any issues discussed and advice given would be recorded and placed on the Inspectorate's website under s.51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008). 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 introduction

The Applicant introduced the project as a proposed circa 2GW gas-fired power station to be located at the site of the existing Eggborough coal-fired power station, to include up to 3 combined cycle gas/steam turbines and also potentially peaking plants.

The project will also include gas and grid connections to existing national transmission networks and may require substation works for the grid connection. A number of potential gas pipeline routes are being considered.

The Applicant provided background to the site, the rationale for the project and the experience of the Applicant and project team. The Applicant also explained the site context including nearby settlements and the environmental context (further detail below).

Timescales

The Applicant advised that its timescales are driven by the Capacity Auction run by Central Government, and that it wishes to have development consent for the project by the end of October 2018 in time for the 2018 Capacity Auction.

The Applicant is currently targeting submission of the DCO application by the end of May 2017. An EIA scoping request will be submitted in August 2016, with Stage 1 (non-statutory) consultation on the project commencing in mid-September 2016. The final stage of consultation (Stage 2) will commence in January 2017. This will be statutory consultation.

The Inspectorate advised that given the timescales and the Applicant's knowledge of its site, it may wish to consider seeking a scoping opinion that, where evidence allows, enables it to focus on the topics that it needs to cover in the Environmental Statement. This may mean programming the scoping later in its process to allow for more information to be gathered and discussed with consultees. The merits and constraints of this were discussed and left for the Applicant to consider further.

Relevant Local Authorities

The Applicant advised that the host Local Planning Authorities for the project are Selby District and North Yorkshire County Councils. The authorities both have experience of the Development Consent Process having dealt with a number of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects within their areas.

The Applicant advised that it has informed the Councils of the project and is arranging meetings with them. The Applicant has also held initial discussions with the Environment Agency. The Inspectorate recommended early discussions with Natural England (NE) to determine what their expectations would be for ecology surveys, and that if the Applicant wishes to request any survey requirements to be scoped out of the Environmental Impact Assessment, the Secretary of State would need good evidence to enable such a decision, taking into account any view NE may have.

Environmental context

The Inspectorate asked for further details of the site's environmental context.

The Applicant advised that part of the site is in the Environment Agency's Flood Zone 3, although the majority lies within Flood Zone 1.

The Applicant advised that the site is not in an Air Quality Management Area, has good transport links and that based on its work so far, it does not anticipate any

impacts on heritage assets or European Designated sites under the Habitats Regulations.

The Applicant also advised that it may need to upgrade existing cooling water pipes between the Site and the River Aire.

Land

The Inspectorate asked whether the Applicant would be seeking any compulsory acquisition (CA) as part of the development consent application. The Applicant advised that it was currently considering the land required and engaging with land owners to seek agreements. If CA is required it would most likely be for the selected gas pipeline route.

AOB

The Inspectorate gave further advice about its pre-application service and the parties agreed to arrange monthly update meetings and to arrange a site visit.