



Meeting note

File reference	EN010081
Status	Final
Author	Karl-Jonas Johansson
Date	13 December 2016
Meeting with	Eggborough Power Limited
Venue	Telecon
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate: Tom Carpen (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Richard Kent (EIA and Land Advisor) Stephanie Newman (EIA and Land Advisor) Karl-Jonas Johansson (Case Officer) Eggborough Power Limited James Crankshaw (Eggborough Power Limited) Jason Morris (Eggborough Power Limited) Geoff Bullock (Dalton Warner Davis LLP) Keith Bradshaw (Eggborough Power Limited) Helen Ainscough (Eggborough Power Limited) Richard Lowe (AECOM) Nick McDonald (Pinsent Masons)
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting
Circulation	EN010081

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

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.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) note on decommissioning

It was confirmed that the Inspectorate broadly agreed with the Applicant's approach to decommissioning and emphasised that the advice given aimed to highlight potential risks to the Applicant within their application for Acceptance or Examination.

The Inspectorate stated that it was of value to set out to the consultees that the demolition of the old coal fired power station would not form part of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) application and advised that the consultation material needed to be clear on this point. The Applicant was receptive to the suggestion from the Inspectorate that the likely timings of the various baseline scenarios (construction phase, opening year, and operating year) presented visually in the consultation material to make it as clear as possible.

No further update could be given at this point whether the demolition of the coal power station would be EIA development as this would only become clear after Selby District Council issues its screening opinion. The Applicant clarified that the earliest date they could seek a screening opinion would be after February 2017 when the current contract with National Grid (NG) expires.

The Applicant is currently working with the Environment Agency (EA) on how to vary the existing environmental permit for the site and will include this information in their Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with the EA.

The Applicant clarified that the visual impact assessment would assume that the coal fired power station could be standing/partially standing in the opening year. The Applicant is considering whether any additional mitigation is needed. .

The worst case scenario for the air quality assessment would include the emissions from the coal fired power station in its baseline assessment, as recommended by Selby District Council. The Applicant clarified that the dispersion of emissions from the CCGT would not be as wide as those arising from the coal fired power station due to the lower stack, and added that the impact from the coal power station on air quality would diminish when it had been decommissioned so the worst case scenario would be conservative.

General project update

The Applicant confirmed that they were working on SoCG with the statutory consultees and that most of the survey work had been finalised with the exception of agricultural land surveys and the geophysical survey of the pipeline route.

The Applicant stated that they were exploring opportunities to increase the capacity of the proposed combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT). Due to an upgrade of the electricity connection infrastructure, a higher output capacity would be possible. The Applicant clarified that these upgrade works to the electricity infrastructure would not be part of the DCO application are going to be pursued by NG as part of their general planned upgrade of the grid in the area. The Applicant is hoping to be able to give an update at the next meeting on the nature of NG's planned works. It was clarified that NG's upgrade work would not include the substation on the site, which would be done by the Applicant.

The CCGT plant will contain three turbines but due to the rapid advances in turbine technology the Applicant is unable to confirm the maximum output of the turbines at the moment.

The Inspectorate and applicant explored some of the challenges around flexibility where the technology was changing rapidly. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to include enough flexibility in the DCO to be able to accommodate the advances in

turbine technology that it may wish to accommodate, as it would be more challenging to change the design after the application has been submitted. In the context of the proposed changes to capacity, The inspectorate also advised the applicant to be clear about any changes to the project during pre-application and to document how these changes were presented to the consultees.

Peaking plant

The Applicant clarified that the output of the proposed peaking plant (299MW) was chosen with the carbon capture regulations in mind. The Applicant also clarified that at this stage they did not intend to take a phased approach to building the two generating stations (peaking plant and CCGT).

The Inspectorate advised that if they were to take a phased approach this could have implications for the impacts of the development, and that the mitigation for the project might need to be tailored for a phased development. Additionally, if the Applicant intends to phase the development in this way, they need to make this clear to the consultees. It was further advised that the DCO needed to be drafted to take a phased approach into account and be clear on how it would handle the obligation under the carbon capture regulations.

The Applicant agreed to reflect on this issue further.

Protective provisions

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to assess which statutory undertakers would need protective provisions and, if possible, engage with them early as the negotiation of protective provisions tends to prolong Examinations. The Applicant confirmed that they were working on protective provisions and would engage with statutory undertakers, but that it was not always possible to resolve negotiations early. The Inspectorate advised that it wished parties to reach as much consensus as possible before submission so any outstanding issues regarding protective provisions had the potential to be resolved early on in the Examination, but recognised the inherent challenges to this.

Timescales

Stage two consultation (including s48 consultation) will commence on 9 January 2016 and end 17 February 2017. Consultation exhibitions will start the week commencing 13 January 2017. To ensure that all consultees can engage in the consultation the Applicant has increased the number of events and venues.

Review of draft application documents by the Inspectorate is currently programmed in for mid-March 2017 with the aim of submitting the application in May 2017.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

- Applicant to seek the Inspectorate's advice regarding the consultation material relating to visualisation of the coal-fired power station's demolition.

