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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 This Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared on behalf of EDF Energy (Thermal Generation) Limited (hereafter referred to as the Applicant) in relation to an application for development consent (the Application) for the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a gas fired generating station (the Proposed Development) near Gainsborough, Nottinghamshire. The Application has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, with the decision whether to grant a Development Consent Order (DCO) being made by the Secretary of State pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 (2008 Act) (Ref 1-1). This ES presents the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken in connection with the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.2 A DCO would provide the necessary authorisations and consents for the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a new gas fired power station of up to 299 megawatts (MW) of electrical generation capacity, for export onto the UK national transmission system. The Proposed Development Site (the Site) is located within the boundary of the existing West Burton Power Station site (and associated land within the ownership of the Applicant). All elements of the Proposed Development are entirely within the administrative boundary of Bassetlaw District Council (BDC), within Nottinghamshire, albeit adjacent to the administrative boundary of West Lindsey District Council (WLDC), within Lincolnshire.
- 1.1.3 This chapter is supported by **Figure 1.1**, (ES Volume III), which illustrates the Site location. **Figure 3.1** (ES Volume III) illustrates the Application Site boundary.

1.2 The Applicant

- 1.2.1 As described above, EDF Energy (Thermal Generation) Limited is part of EDF Energy which is the UK's largest producer of low-carbon electricity, the biggest supplier of electricity by volume in Great Britain and the largest supplier to British businesses.

1.3 Proposed Development

- 1.3.1 The Proposed Development comprises the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a gas fired generating station with a gross electrical output of up to 299MW; comprising up to five open cycle gas turbine (OCGT) units (depending on the technology to be selected – refer to **Section 4.2** of **Chapter 4**: The Proposed Development for details of potential technology options). Subject to the necessary consents being granted and an investment decision being made, construction of the Proposed Development could potentially start as early as Quarter 3 (Q3) 2020. Construction activities are expected to be

completed within four years and are more likely to be completed within three years.

- 1.3.2 The Site is located within the wider West Burton Power Station site, to the north of the WBB Power Station site. The Site encompasses an area of approximately 32.8 hectares (ha) of which approximately 16.3ha comprises the built development and construction laydown area, with a further approximately 16.5ha of land proposed for ecology and landscaping works. However, the Site area allows for several potential gas and grid connection options that are still under technical evaluation. The proposed generating station itself would occupy an area of approximately 3.4ha (as shown on **Figure 3.3** (ES Volume III)). Part of the Site is currently occupied by grassland and young planted scrub. A new grid and gas connection would link the Proposed Development with the existing WBB Power Station site; therefore part of the Site falls within the WBB Power Station site.
- 1.3.3 The location of the Site is shown on **Figure 1.1** (ES Volume III). The Site and its surroundings are described in **Chapter 3: Description of the Site and its Surroundings**. A detailed description of the Proposed Development is provided in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development**.
- 1.3.4 The Proposed Development would contribute to the vital new energy infrastructure required to contribute to security of supply to the UK and would be available to operate in accordance with energy market requirements, including those in respect of any Capacity Market contract. Peaking plants, such as that proposed, are used to rapidly supply electricity to the network when required by the National Grid. These plants can be fired up at short notice to help cope with periods of high demand or low electricity supply nationally (for example when the wind is not blowing to enable sufficient output to be achieved from wind farms in the UK), or when required to provide ancillary services to support the National Grid. This is expected to be weighted towards the winter period, usually for a few hours at a time. However, as the operation of the plant is driven by the dynamics of the energy market, the plant could run for longer periods, at any time of day, up to the maximum allowed under its Environmental Permit, which is anticipated to be 1,500 hours per year on a rolling five year average.
- 1.3.5 Environmental impacts arising from the Proposed Development have been studied systematically as part of the EIA process, and the results are presented within this ES. The baseline for the assessment has been derived from measurements and studies in and around the Site. This is explained further in **Chapter 2: Assessment Methodology** and in the methodology section of each technical assessment chapter (**Chapters 6-16**).
- 1.3.6 The EIA process has considered impacts resulting from the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning periods of the Proposed Development. Measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate any significant adverse effects on the environment and, where reasonably practical, enhance the

environment have been considered. The EIA has also identified '*residual*' effects, defined as effects remaining following the implementation of mitigation measures.

- 1.3.7 The potential cumulative effects of the Proposed Development with other relevant known proposed or consented schemes have been considered and are outlined in **Chapter 16: Cumulative and Combined Effects**.

1.4 Consenting Process

- 1.1.4 The Planning Act 2008 (Ref 1-1) created a new development consent regime for *Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects* (NSIPs), which includes specified energy generation projects. The Proposed Development falls within the definition of a NSIP under Section 14(1)(a) and Sections 15(1) and (2) of the 2008 Act, as it is an onshore generating station in England that would have a generating capacity greater than 50 megawatts electrical (50MWe) output. As such, a DCO is required to authorise the Proposed Development in accordance with Section 31 of the 2008 Act (Ref 1-1).

- 1.4.1 An application for development consent for the Proposed Development has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Subject to the Application being accepted, which will be notified within a period of 28 days following receipt of the Application, the Planning Inspectorate will then examine the Application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who then decides whether to grant a DCO.

- 1.4.2 A DCO, if granted, has the effect of providing planning consent for a development, in addition to a range of other consents and authorisations where specified within the Order. Section 115 of the Planning Act 2008 provides that, in addition to the development for which development consent is required under Part 3 of the Act (the 'principal development'), consent may also be granted for '*associated development*'. Associated development is defined in the Planning Act as development which is associated with the principal development. For the purposes of this Application the principal development relates to Work No. 1 to 8 in Schedule 1 of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) (**Application Document Ref. 2.1**) and the associated development relates to Works No. 9 and 10 and paragraphs (a) to (f) of that same Schedule. Further detail on the approach to associated development is set out in the Explanatory Memorandum (**Application Document Ref. 2.2**). **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development** details the NSIP and associated development.

1.5 EIA Regulations

- 1.5.1 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 2017 EIA Regulations) came into force on 16 May 2017 (Ref 1-2), replacing the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009, as amended (the 2009 EIA Regulations) (Ref 1-3). The 2017 EIA Regulations were updated and amended in 2018 (Ref 1-4). The 2009 Regulations however

continue to apply to certain projects, pursuant to the transitional arrangements set out in Regulation 37 of the 2017 EIA Regulations (as amended). This provides that (amongst other circumstances) where a request has been made to the Secretary of State for a Scoping Opinion, prior to the date of the commencement of the 2017 EIA Regulations, then the 2009 EIA Regulations '*continue to apply to any application for an order granting development consent*'. The Applicant submitted a request for a Scoping Opinion (**Appendix 1A** (ES Volume II)) and it was received by the Secretary of State on 28 April 2017 (i.e. before commencement of the 2017 EIA Regulations on 16 May 2017). Therefore, the 2009 EIA Regulations are those that apply to this Application.

1.5.2 The Proposed Development falls within Schedule 2 of the 2009 EIA Regulations (Ref 1-3) as it constitutes '*Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water*'. The Applicant formally provided notification under Regulation 6(1)(b) of the 2009 EIA Regulations that an ES would be prepared in respect of the Proposed Development. Therefore, in accordance with Regulation 4(2)(a) of the 2009 EIA Regulations, the Proposed Development is determined to be '*EIA development*' and this ES summarises the results of the EIA work undertaken.

1.5.3 Notwithstanding the position of the 2009 Regulations (Ref 1-3) applying and primarily for the sake of completeness, the Applicant has taken into account additional requirements associated with the 2017 EIA Regulations (Ref 1-2) (as amended) (Ref 1-4). This includes consideration of likely effects associated with the vulnerability of the Proposed Development to risks of major accidents and/or disasters relevant to the Project (including for example those caused by climate change), human health, and monitoring strategies to track the delivery and success of design elements and mitigation that aims to avoid or reduce significant adverse effects on the environment. The inclusion of these matters seeks to acknowledge the 2017 EIA Regulations (as amended), within the context of an application which is primarily aligned and submitted in accordance with the 2009 EIA Regulations.

1.6 EIA Scoping

1.6.1 The issues that the Applicant considered the EIA should address were identified in the EIA Scoping Report (**Appendix 1A** (ES Volume II)) submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in April 2017. The EIA Scoping Report was developed following initial consultation with a number of statutory consultees and was informed by the EIA team's experience working on a number of other power station projects, including those in the vicinity of the Site. The Secretary of State's Scoping Opinion (**Appendix 1B** (ES Volume II)) was received on 7 June 2017, including the formal responses received by the Planning Inspectorate from consultees. Key issues raised in the Scoping Opinion are summarised at the start of each technical chapter of the ES, with all matters having been considered during the EIA process. **Appendix 1C** (ES Volume II) provides a summary of how issues raised in the Scoping Opinion have been addressed in the ES.

- 1.6.2 The Secretary of State agreed, via the Scoping Opinion, that a standalone chapter on the vulnerability of the Project to risks of major accidents and/or disasters relevant to the Proposed Development could be scoped out (see **Chapter 2: Assessment Methodology**). Instead, potential risks such as fuel spillages, fires and abnormal issues are addressed under topic specific **Chapters 6 – 16**, where relevant.
- 1.6.3 Potential effects of the Proposed Development on human health are specifically dealt with in topic specific chapters, where relevant and reported within **Appendix 13A: Human Health** (ES Volume II).
- 1.6.4 Monitoring strategies proposed to track the delivery and success of design elements and mitigation that aims to avoid or reduce significant adverse effects on the environment are reported in each relevant topic specific chapter.

1.7 Preliminary Environmental Information Report

- 1.7.1 A Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report (Ref 1-5) was published for formal (statutory) consultation (pursuant to Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008) on the Proposed Development in September 2017, to satisfy the requirement of the 2009 EIA Regulations (Ref 1-3). ‘*Preliminary environmental information*’ is defined in the 2009 EIA Regulations as:

“information referred to in Part 1 of Schedule 4 (information for inclusion in environmental statements) which (a) has been compiled by the applicant; and (b) is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development).”

- 1.7.2 Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seven (Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping) (Ref 1-6) states:

“a good PEI document is one that enables consultees (both specialist and non-specialist) to understand the likely environmental effects of the proposed development and helps to inform their consultation responses on the proposed development.” (paragraph 7.4)

- 1.7.3 In order to enable consultees to understand the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development, the PEI Report (Ref 1-5) presented preliminary findings of the environmental assessments undertaken. This allowed consultees the opportunity to provide informed comment on the Proposed Development, the assessment process and preliminary findings, prior to the finalisation of the Application, including this ES. Following the formal (statutory) consultation period, which ended in October 2017, the Proposed Development design developed further, taking into consideration comments raised during the consultation. The Consultation Report (**Application Document Ref. 4.1**) describes the approach taken, outcome of consultation and wider stakeholder engagement activities throughout the pre-application stage. The technical chapters of this ES include a

summary of relevant consultation and a description of how this has influenced the design of the Proposed Development and approach to the EIA for each topic.

1.8 Environmental Statement

- 1.8.1 The ES is submitted as part of the suite of documents accompanying the Application. The information presented in the ES describes the findings of the EIA. The EIA adopts a worst-case assessment basis, based on the Proposed Development design and adopting the principles of the Rochdale Envelope, wherever specific parameters cannot yet be fixed for the Proposed Development. This is detailed further in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development**.
- 1.8.2 **Table 1-1** summarises where the requirements of Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the 2009 EIA Regulations (Ref 1-3) have been addressed in this ES. It should be noted that relevant information may be found in **ES Volume I**, **ES Volume II** (the supporting technical appendices accompanying the ES) and **ES Volume III** (the figures accompanying the ES) and in other documents (as referenced) accompanying the Application.

Table 1-1: Requirements of Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the 2009 EIA Regulations

| Requirement | Where information is provided (within this ES unless otherwise stated) |
|---|---|
| A description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases. | Chapter 3: Description of the Site and its Surroundings Chapter 4: The Proposed Development |
| A description of the main characteristics of the production processes, for instance, nature and quantity of the materials used. | Chapter 4: The Proposed Development and Chapter 15: Sustainability, Waste and Climate Change |
| An estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, etc.) resulting from the operation of the Proposed Development. | Chapter 2: Assessment Methodology, Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Chapter 6: Air Quality, Chapter 8: Noise and Vibration, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, Chapter 11: Ground Conditions and Hydrogeology, Chapter 12: Flood Risk, Hydrology and Water Resources, and Chapter 13: Socio-economics. Accompanying appendices (ES Volume II) including Appendix 15A: Greenhouse Gas Assessment, Application Document Ref. 7.2: The Combined Heat and Power |

| Requirement | Where information is provided (within this ES unless otherwise stated) |
|---|---|
| | Assessment, and Application Document Ref. 7.4: The Lighting Strategy |
| An outline of the main alternatives studied by the Applicant and an indication of the main reasons for the Applicant's choice, taking into account the environmental effects. | Chapter 4: The Proposed Development |
| A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development, including, in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter-relationship between the above factors. | Chapters 6–16 (topic specific chapters) Baseline Conditions sections and accompanying appendices (ES Volume II) |
| A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development, resulting from: (a) the existence of the development; (b) the use of natural resources; (c) the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances and the elimination of waste, and the description by the applicant of the forecasting methods used to assess the effects on the environment. | Chapters 6–16 (topic specific chapters) Likely Impacts and Effects sections and accompanying appendices (ES Volume II) |
| A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment. | Chapters 6–16 (topic specific chapters) Development Design and Impact Avoidance and Mitigation and Enhancement Measures sections Application Document Ref. 7.3: Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan |

| Requirement | Where information is provided (within this ES unless otherwise stated) |
|--|---|
| A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 5 of this Part. | Application Document Ref. 5.1: Environmental Statement – Non-Technical Summary |
| An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information. | Chapters 6–16 (topic specific chapters) Limitations or Difficulties sections |

1.9 Consultation

1.9.1 Consultation is integral to developing the proposals and related assessments that underpin an application for development consent, particularly the EIA process. The views of all stakeholders serve to focus the environmental studies and to identify specific matters that require further investigation, as well as to inform aspects of the design of the Proposed Development. Consultation is an on-going process and the publication of the PEI Report (Ref 1-5) within a period of formal consultation on the Proposed Development formed an important part of that process.

1.9.2 The 2008 Act (Ref 1-1) requires applicants to carry out formal (statutory) pre-application consultation on their proposals. There are a number of requirements as to how this consultation must be undertaken that are set out in the 2008 Act and related regulations, as summarised below:

- Section 42 of the 2008 Act requires the applicant to consult with ‘*prescribed persons*’, which includes certain consultation bodies such as the Environment Agency and Natural England, relevant statutory undertakers, relevant local authorities, those with an interest in the land, as well as those who may be affected by the development;
- Section 47 of the 2008 Act requires the applicant to consult with the local community on the development. Prior to this, the applicant must agree a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) with the relevant local authorities. The SoCC must set out the proposed community consultation and, once agreed with the relevant local authorities, a SoCC Notice must be published in local newspapers circulating within the vicinity of the land in question. The consultation must then be carried out in accordance with the final SoCC;
- Section 48 of the 2008 Act places a duty on the applicant to publicise the proposed application in the ‘*prescribed manner*’ in a national newspaper, The London Gazette, local newspapers circulating within the vicinity of the land and certain marine publications; and

- Section 49 of the Act places a duty on the applicant to take account of any relevant responses received to the consultation and publicity that is required by Sections 42, 47 and 48.

1.9.3 The Applicant has adopted a three stage approach to pre-application consultation for this Application. An informal (non-statutory) consultation was carried out between 5 July and 2 August 2017, whilst the formal Stage 1 (statutory) consultation ran between 7 September and 16 October 2017. Subsequently, post-statutory consultation was undertaken between March and April 2019 with key stakeholders and Parish Councils to update consultees on the proposals and undertake additional engagement. Feedback from the consultation was used during the finalisation of the Application and this ES.

1.9.4 As part of its consultation strategy, the Applicant afforded the same weight to the responses received through the informal (non-statutory) consultation to those received through the formal (statutory) consultation.

1.9.5 The pre-application consultation undertaken by the Applicant included:

- informal (non-statutory) consultation, encompassing –
 - early meetings and discussions with BDC, WLDC, Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC), Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency,
 - informal consultation with the local community within the immediate vicinity of the Site in July 2017, including a public exhibition, and
 - informal consultation in July/August 2017 with the relevant local authorities on the preparation of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) (Ref 1-7) for the community consultation under Section 47;
- formal (statutory) consultation, comprising –
 - Section 47 – formal consultation on the SoCC with the relevant local authorities, publication of the SoCC Notice in September 2017, and consultation with the local community in accordance with the agreed SoCC in September 2017, including three public exhibitions held in venues near to the Site,
 - Section 42 – formal consultation with ‘prescribed persons’ (relevant consultation bodies that were engaged with during informal consultation) between September and October 2017, and
 - Section 48 – formal publicity of the proposed Application in September 2017;
- EIA related consultation – this took place alongside the informal and formal pre-application consultation on the Proposed Development, with EIA scoping taking place prior to initial meetings with local authorities and key consultation bodies and during the early part of the informal community consultation. The PEI Report (Ref 1-5) was produced for and published alongside the Section

42, 47 and 48 consultation and publicity, in addition to dialogue with key consultees during and after the scoping and PEI stages; and

- Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) are being progressed with key statutory consultees prior to submission of the Application.

1.9.6 Feedback on the formal (statutory) consultation (including PEI Report (Ref 1-5)) received from all consultees, along with a summary of matters raised during consultation relevant to the EIA, have informed the EIA process and the findings presented in this ES. The approach to consultation and how the Applicant has had regard to the responses received is more fully documented within the Consultation Report (**Application Document Ref. 4.1**) and summarised in each technical chapter (**Chapters 6-16**) of this ES. The Consultation Report includes a separate section on EIA related consultation, as recommended within the PINS Advice Note (Advice Note 14) (Ref 1-8), on the preparation of consultation reports.

1.9.7 Ongoing refinement of the concept design, together with feedback from the consultation process has resulted in the evolution of the project design and definition since the PEI Report was published (Ref 1-5). This is described in detail in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development**.

1.10 References

- Ref 1-1 HM Government (2008) *The Planning Act 2008*.
- Ref 1-2 HM Government (2017) *The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017*.
- Ref 1-3 HM Government (2009) *The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009*.
- Ref 1-4 HM Government (2018) *The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2018*.
- Ref 1-5 AECOM (2017) *West Burton C Preliminary Environmental Information Report*, September 2017.
- Ref 1-6 Planning Inspectorate (2017) *Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seven (Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping)*. Version 6, December 2017 December.
- Ref 1-7 EDF Energy (West Burton Power Ltd) (2017) *The West Burton C (Generating Station) – Land to the north of the West Burton B Power Station, Nottinghamshire Stage 1 Pre-Application Consultation Statement of Community Consultation*, September 2017
- Ref 1-8 Planning Inspectorate (2012) *Advice Note 14 Compiling the Consultation Report*, Version 2, April 2012.