The Planning Inspectorate

Overview - Transboundary screening undertaken by the Secretary of State	
Project name:	Proposed West Burton C gas-fired generating station at West Burton Power Station, near Gainsborough, Nottinghamshire by EDF Energy (West Burton Power) Limited
Address/Location:	West Burton Power Station, near Gainsborough, Nottinghamshire
Planning Inspectorate Ref:	EN010088
Date(s) screening undertaken:	First screening – 23 June 2017 following the Applicant's request for a scoping opinion
EEA States identified for notification:	First screening: None identified.

FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE	
Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:	West Burton C Power Station Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report, April 2017 ('the Scoping Report')
Date	23 June 2017
Screening Criteria:	**Secretary of State Comments:**
Characteristics of the Development	The Proposed Development comprises the construction and operation of a gas-fired power station, West Burton C (WBC), with a gross electrical output of up to 299MW and associated infrastructure within the existing West Burton Power Station site. West Burton Power Station Site comprises the existing West Burton A (WBA) coal fired power station and West Burton B (WBB) combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power station. A description of the Proposed Development is set out in the Scoping Report in Section 3.1. The Applicant indicates that the Proposed Development's total site area at scoping allows for two technology options for potential gas connections to be developed that will be confirmed following technical studies (Scoping Report, paragraph 2.2.2 and Section 3.1). The Applicant proposes that the generating station would occupy an area of approximately 3.4ha (Scoping Report, paragraph 2.2.2 and Figure 4). The two main technology options that the Applicant is considering are: • Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT); or

	• Gas engines. The Proposed Development would include either units with a stack; or co-located stacks and a transformer; or associated stacks and a transformer (or transformers). The Scoping Report indicates that the number and sizes of proposed gas engines would be dependent on the exact gas throughput and electrical output (Scoping Report, paragraphs 3.1.10-3.1.13). For any of the above options chosen by the Applicant, the Proposed Development would also comprise: • associated switch gear and ancillary equipment; • gas receiving area and gas reception building, gas treatment control facilities and pipeline to connect with the existing WBB gas reception facility; • electrical connection; water supply and pipelines; • liquid fuel tank; • electrical, control, administration and welfare buildings; • workshop and stores; ground water and fire water storage tanks; • storm water attenuation system; • access roads and car parking; • construction laydown areas and a potential rail offloading area from the existing rail loop on site; • auxiliary cooling equipment and cooling water supply; and • other minor infrastructure, plant and equipment. The Applicant proposes to connect the WBC station to the existing WBB 400kV switchyard via overhead cabling; below ground cabling; or a combination of both options (Scoping Report, paragraphs 3.1.16-3.1.17). The gas connection for the Proposed Development would be from the existing WBB gas reception facility located in the north-east corner of the WBB site adjacent to the proposed WBC site to a new WBC gas reception facility (Scoping Report, paragraph 3.1.18). The Scoping Report indicates that the maximum stack height(s) would be up to 30-45m (Scoping Report, paragraphs 3.1.8 and 5.6.13) and this would be secured as part of the environmental permitting process, with the final height for the emission stacks determined through an air impact assessment and atmospheric dispersion modelling based on the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) which specifies emission limit values regulated through an Environmental Permit (Scoping Report, paragraphs 5.2.4-5.2.11). The Scoping Report suggests that the Proposed Development

	would be built out in 3 phases lasting up to 6 years (Scoping Report, Section 3.2).
Geographical area	The site is located within Nottinghamshire, close to the border with Lincolnshire and wholly within England (location shown in Scoping Report, Figures 1-4). No impact is identified in the jurisdiction of another EEA State.
Location of Development (including existing use)	The development site is approximately 3.5km south-west of the town of Gainsborough and 1km north-east of the village of Sturton-le-Steeple, in the county of Nottinghamshire, close to the border with Lincolnshire. Larger sized settlements of Scunthorpe, Doncaster, Worksop and Lincoln lie within approximately 20km of the site. The nearest coast to the site is the Lincolnshire coast with the North Sea approximately 70km from the site. The Proposed Development site covers a total area of approximately 21.5ha. The site comprises 2 existing power stations owned and operated by the Applicant which are to be retained; these are the recently commissioned WBB CCGT power station which consists of 3 units producing up to 1332MW, adjacent to the older coal-fired WBA power station, which consists of 4 units producing up to 2000MW, with 2 chimney stacks and 8 cooling towers approximately 200m and 110m in height respectively. Site land-use is currently industrial, comprising infrastructure and plant for the existing power stations, and land associated with industrial use such as the storage and conveyance of coal and other materials. The WBC site was formerly used to dispose of pulverised ash and as a construction laydown area for WBB but now comprises grassland and planted scrub (Scoping Report, Section 2.2). Surrounding land uses include: • the A620 (Gainsborough Road) which gives access to the site and connects it to the A631 near Beckingham to the north. The A631 links the site to Gainsborough to the north east; the A156 to Lincoln to the south east; and the A159 to Scunthorpe in the north. • a railway link is located in the west side of the existing site, which provides coal and material supplies to WBA. This connects with the railway line between Lincoln and Sheffield; • Sturgate Airfield, a private aerodrome, is located approximately 7km east of the Proposed Development site; and • West Burton Sewage Treatment Works (STW) is located to the east of the site, which takes in foul water from the existing power station.

Cumulative impacts	Other major developments close to the Proposed Development have been identified in the Scoping Report as three planned developments (Scoping Report, Section 5.12). No assessment of likely significant effects is provided in the Scoping Report. The Applicant states that "*an assessment of potentially significant cumulative effects with other proposed developments in the vicinity of the proposed development will be undertaken for each of the technical topics, and reported in the ES*" (Scoping Report, Section 5.12). The Secretary of State's Scoping Opinion dated June 2017 recommended that cumulative and inter-related impacts for the Proposed Development should be considered in the ES.
Carrier	Potential pollution impacts could be spread through air, land and water.
Environmental Importance	The closest internationally designated sites to the Proposed Development are: • Hatfield Moor Special Area of Conservation (SAC), located approximately 19.5km to the north-west; • Thorne Moor Special Protection Area (SPA), located approximately 25km to the north-west; • Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC, located approximately 25km south-west; • Humber Estuary SAC, located approximately 30-40km north-east. National statutorily designated sites designated within 5-10km of the Proposed Development site are: • Lea Marsh Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which is located approximately 1km north-east; • Clarborough Tunnel SSSI which lies approximately 6km south-west • Treswell Wood SSSI and Castle Hill Wood SSSI are located approximately 8km south-west • Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits SSSIs, located approximately 9km west • Chesterfield Canal SSSI is also located within 10km of the Proposed Development site and comprises a 20km stretch of canal running between Retford and Misterton in north Nottinghamshire. Locally designated sites include 11 Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) (Scoping Report, Figure 6 and Section 2.3) and Beckingham Marshes Reserve a non-statutory site managed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and located approximately 4km north of the Proposed Development site. A number of named ancient woodland sites have been identified in the Scoping Report (Scoping Report, Figure 6) as being within

	2-5km of the Proposed Development site. The site lies within National Landscape Character Area 48 (NE 429 Trent and Belvoir Vales), characterised by undulating, low-lying rural and mainly arable farming land with relatively little woodland cover, with long, open views surrounding the River Trent which runs alongside the eastern boundary of the Proposed Development. The Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) lies approximately 35km east of the Proposed Development site. Scheduled monuments (SM) identified within 2km of the Proposed Development site include: • the deserted medieval village of West Burton, located to the south side of the WBA site (Scoping Report, figures 5 and 6 and Section 5.9), listed by Historic England as a 13.4ha 'Medieval settlement and open field system immediately south east of Low Farm' (SM 1017741); • Segelocum Roman town (SM 1003669), approximately 4km to the south-east of the Proposed Development site; • Roman roads between North Wheatley to the west of the Proposed Development site, Sturton le Steeple and Marton south of the site, running in a south-east direction to the River Trent and further on to Sturton by Stow and beyond (Scoping Report, Section 5.9). The Scoping Report identifies several clusters of listed buildings within 10km of the Proposed Development (Scoping Report, Figure 6 and Section 5.9) in the nearby villages and Gainsborough, which include Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings. Three Conservation Areas (CAs) are identified as being within 5km of the Proposed Development site: • Saundby CA, located approximately 2km north-west; • Wheatley CA, located approximately 3.5km to the west; and • Gainsborough CA, located approximately 4.2km to the north-east (Scoping Report, Figure 6 and Section 2.3, and Section 5.9). Gainsborough CA comprises 3 separate CAs known as Gainsborough Britannia Works CA, Gainsborough Riverside CA and Gainsborough Town Centre CA. A number of public rights of way (PRoW) pass within 500m of the site (Scoping Report, Section 5.6) and in the surrounding area of the Proposed Development (Scoping Report, Figure 6). Air quality at certain locations within Worksop approximately 22km south-east of the site and along the A1(M) corridor have been identified as having elevated Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) levels (Scoping Report, Section 2.3). Key air quality receptors are identified as local villages and towns near to the site (Scoping

	Report, Section 2.3). The site has previously used for industrial uses including infrastructure and plant for the existing power stations, and land associated with industrial use such as the storage and conveyance of coal and other materials. The land surrounding the site has mainly agricultural uses. The River Trent, which runs along the eastern boundary of the Proposed Development site, flows from Staffordshire through the Midlands to meet the River Ouse and together join the Humber Estuary. Wheatley Beck, Railway Dyke and Catchwater Drain are water bodies located near to the site. Catchwater Drain and Wheatley Beck have ecological classification under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Paragraph 5.8.1 of the Scoping Report notes that tidal flood defences have been raised adjacent to the site along the western bank of the River Trent, which are not identified in the EA flood maps.
Extent	No impacts are identified that would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
Magnitude	No impacts are identified that would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
Probability	No impacts are identified that would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
Duration	No impacts are identified that would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
Frequency	No impacts are identified that would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
Reversibility	No impacts are identified that would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.

Transboundary screening undertaken by the Secretary of State

The transboundary screening of the Proposed Development has been considered taking into account the transitional provisions in Regulation 37 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 2017 EIA Regulations). The Applicant has requested the Secretary of State to adopt a scoping opinion in respect of the development to which the screening relates prior to 16 May 2017 (the date of the commencement of the 2017 EIA Regulations). The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (the 2009 EIA Regulations) are therefore considered to be the applicable EIA Regulations. Under Regulation 24 of the 2009 EIA Regulations and on the basis of the current information available from the Applicant, the Secretary of State is of the view that the Proposed Development **is not likely** to have a significant effect on the environment in another EEA State.

In reaching this view the Secretary of State has applied the precautionary approach (as explained in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 12: Transboundary Impacts

Consultation); and taken into account the information currently supplied by the applicant.

Action:

No further action required at this stage

Date: 23 June 2017

Note: The Secretary of State's duty under Regulation 24 of the 2009 EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.