



Preliminary Meeting Note

Application: West Burton C Power Station

Reference: EN010088

Time and date: 10:00am, 30th October 2019

Venue: Conference Room, West Retford Hotel, Retford

This meeting note is not a full transcript of the Preliminary Meeting. It is a summary of the key points discussed.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Alex Hutson (AH) welcomed those present and introduced himself as the Examining Authority to examine the West Burton C Power Station application for Development Consent.

AH explained the appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on 7 August 2019.

AH explained that he would be examining the application made by EDF Energy (Thermal Generation) Ltd ('the Applicant') before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), should be made.

AH explained the purpose of the Preliminary Meeting (PM) and noted that the Examination will commence after the PM closes.

AH confirmed that all documents and submissions received and accepted during the Examination will be published on the project-specific page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

The Applicant and other parties present introduced themselves.

2. Audio recording

AH explained that the full audio recording of the PM is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website. This can be accessed [here](#).

3. General Data Protection Regulation

AH explained the Planning Inspectorate's duties under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Further info relating to the GDPR can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's [Privacy Note](#).

4. Examination Process

AH explained the examination process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) and set out how he intends to examine the application for Development Consent, adhering to the principles of: independence and impartiality; rigor; a focus on evidence and justification; openness; fairness; and timeliness. Further information on the examination process can be found in [Advice Note 8.4](#).

5. Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

AH explained the purpose of the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (section 88 of the PA2008), which can be found in Annex B of the [Rule 6](#) letter of 26 September 2019 and asked for any observations on them.

No comments were made by any of the parties in attendance.

6. Procedural decisions

The ExA clarified the Procedural Decisions made under section 89(3) of the PA2008 and outlined the purpose of Statements of Common Ground (SoCG). The Procedural Decisions taken can be found in Annex E of the Rule 6 Letter.

AH invited comments on the Procedural Decisions taken. No comments were made by any of the parties in attendance.

7. Draft Examination Timetable and Deadlines for Submission

AH briefly set out the draft Examination Timetable contained in Annex C of the Rule 6 letter. He explained the purpose of the Rule 8 letter and the purpose of his written questions which would be contained within it. He invited comments from the parties in attendance in respect of the draft Examination Timetable.

Elizabeth Dunn (ED) representing the Applicant, commented that with respect to Deadline 1 and the initial SoCG, that it would be preferable if the Applicant provided updates on some of the SoCG as it was unlikely that all would be ready by this date. AH duly noted this and acknowledged that there might be scope for some flexibility on this matter.

ED suggested a deadline of midnight on the identified dates for deadlines. AH indicated that this would be likely to be acceptable.

AH explained that the Examination Timetable will be confirmed in the Rule 8 letter, to be published around a week after the PM.

8. Hearings and Site Inspections

AH clarified the purpose of: Issue Specific Hearings; Open Floor Hearings; Accompanied Site Inspections; and Unaccompanied Site Inspections.

AH also made reference to Compulsory Acquisition Hearings but noted that as there would be no Compulsory Acquisition involved, such hearings would not form part of the examination process.

The ExA sought comments on the arrangements for the above events. No comments were received.

Further information relating to hearings and site inspections can be found in [Advice Note 8.5](#).

ED acknowledged an inconsistency between the location of Viewpoint 13 as shown on the plans and the location that the associated photograph was taken from and that this matter would be addressed.

9. Other Procedural Matters

No other procedural matters were raised or identified.

10. Availability of Relevant Representations and application documents

AH reiterated that all Relevant Representations and application documents to date are available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and that all further documents submitted during the course of the Examination will be published here also. In addition, that documents can also be viewed, free of charge, at Retford Library and Gainsborough Library on Mondays to Saturdays.

AH highlighted that this information is set out in Annex D of the Rule 6 letter.

11. Any Other Matters

Mr Peter Coomber (PC), an Interested Party, queried the exact details of the proposal. The Applicant explained that the application is for a single power station but with some flexibility of its design and layout, and all information can be found within the documents. AH advised that there is a summary of the project available online and in libraries. AH also suggested that the Applicant and PC could get together after the meeting in order for the Applicant to assist further with PC's queries. The Applicant suggested that a paper copy of the documents could be provided.

12. Close of the PM

AH thanked everyone for their attendance and engagement and closed the PM at 1054 hours.