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Project name:
West Burton C (Gas Fired Generating Station)

Project ref: EN010088

To:
Planning Inspectorate

From: Richard Lowe, AECOM

Date:
24th February 2020

Memo

Subject: Spoil Management

Overview

This note provides a response to the Examining Authority's (ExA) Rule 17 Letter, dated 5th February 2020, requesting further information from the Applicant, related to soil and spoil management, which stated the following:

As part of the recent Issue Specific Hearing, the ExA queried how the provisions made in Requirement 5 of the dDCO for minimum ground levels of 7.1 metres (m) Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) had been accounted for as a worst-case scenario, particular with regard to soil management/potential for vehicular movements of soil off-site. The ExA notes the submission from the Applicant at Deadline 4 setting out that the intention, other than for an access road, is not to reduce the whole of the part of the application site that the proposed power station (including for Works 1, 2 and 4) would occupy to this level, and as a result a detailed assessment of this as the worst-case scenario has not been undertaken.

Nonetheless, the dDCO would allow for such overall reductions in levels. This would be likely to necessitate the movement of large volumes of soil. The Environmental Statement (ES) should take the worst-case parameters of the Proposed Development as set out within the dDCO into account.

*On this basis, the ExA asks **the Applicant** to:*

1. Provide an assessment of the worst-case scenario of the Proposed Development, in terms of soil management/potential for vehicular movements of soil off-site and any other inter-related effects, on the basis that the proposed power station could sit at 7.1m AOD (and provide a view on whether any further assessment and environmental information requires further consultation); or

2. Amend the dDCO appropriately to negate the necessity for this and to bring the wording/parameters of the dDCO in line with the assessment in the ES.

The Applicant has no intention of taking the entire site level down to a height of 7.1mAOD as the Applicant recognises this would generate a large volume of surplus spoil that would need to be

accommodated or disposed of. This would be expensive, time consuming and counter-productive. It is also not a scenario that has been assessed from a transport or air quality perspective in the ES that accompanied the DCO application. The 7.1mAOD level was included as a minimum level as that was the level identified in the Flood Risk Assessment above which ground works should be maintained to prevent flood risk.

Nevertheless, the Applicant will need to tie in the site ground levels to the existing ash roadway that runs to the north of the main development area of the Site (work number 1). This ash road is at an elevation of around 8.2mAOD. Works will therefore be required to the extent necessary to tie in the site access to the existing ash road.

As with other DCO applications (e.g. Eggborough CCGT, VPI Immingham OCGT), management of spoil volumes is to be controlled through achieving a neutral cut and fill balance across the wider Site. As with those other DCOs, this is secured through the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and the detailed design requirement. A framework CEMP accompanied the DCO application. This states that "earthworks would be balanced so that quantities of 'cut' material match quantities of 'fill' material as far as reasonably practicable, to minimise quantities of surplus excavation waste from the site". This is the approach assessed in the ES.

Notwithstanding the above, the Applicant realises that the ExA would like further clarity on the use of minimum levels within the draft DCO. It is therefore proposed that the wording be amended such that the minimum level only applies to work number 1 to allow for connection to the existing ash road. The Applicant confirms that any surplus spoil arising from any such works needed to tie into the ash road would be accommodated within the red line boundary and no off site disposal of spoil would be required.