

Ms E Sherman
Major Applications and Plans
The Planning Inspectorate
3D Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Our Ref: Document 1.1 – Covering Letter
PINS Ref: EN010090

6th April 2018

Dear Ms Sherman,

THE PLANNING ACT 2008

EN010090 – THE KEMSLEY MILL K4 COMBINED HEAT AND POWER GENERATING STATION DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

DS SMITH PAPER LTD – THE KEMSLEY PAPER MILL, SWALE WAY, KEMSLEY, SITTINGBOURNE, KENT, ME10 2TD

I am pleased to enclose an application made on behalf of DS Smith Paper Ltd under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for a Development Consent Order to allow for the construction and operation of a replacement Combined Heat and Power Generating Station at the Kemsley Paper Mill in Sittingbourne, Kent.

DS Smith Paper Ltd [‘the applicant’ or ‘DS Smith’] is a leading European manufacturer of recycled case materials and speciality papers. The Kemsley Paper Mill in Sittingbourne, Kent, is their only mill within the UK.

DS Smith are seeking a Development Consent Order [‘DCO’] which would allow for the construction and operation of a Combined Heat and Power [‘CHP’] Generating Station, to be known as ‘K4’ [‘the K4 CHP Plant’] at the Kemsley Paper Mill. The K4 CHP plant would replace an existing CHP Plant [‘K1’] which is nearing the end of its operational life and would provide electricity and steam to the paper mill, with any excess electricity being exported to the grid.

The K4 CHP plant would have a nominal power output of 68-83 Megawatts. It is therefore a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under Section 14(1)(a) and Section 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 as it comprises an onshore generating station with a capacity of more than 50 megawatts.

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An application is therefore being submitted to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, via the Planning Inspectorate, for a DCO which, if made, would be *'The Kemsley Mill K4 Combined Heat and Power Generating Station Development Consent Order'*.

The site of the proposed K4 CHP plant is an area of existing hardstanding within the south-eastern part of the wider Kemsley Paper Mill site, to the south of the existing K1 CHP plant.

The Proposed Development

The proposed K4 CHP plant would comprise a complex of main and ancillary plant items with a 70m and a 35m high stack. The final technical design and layout of the proposed CHP plant has not been finalized and limits of deviation are therefore proposed within the draft DCO to provide flexibility regarding the size and location of the main plant items, within defined maximum parameters, and the height and location of ancillary plant items. At the point of submission two technical options remain possible; a vertical tube or horizontal tube boiler. The Works Plans which form part of the DCO application therefore reflect both options at this stage, with the intention being to select one of those options at a suitably early stage within the examination process.

The proposed DCO

The draft DCO makes provision for five Works;

- 1) A Combined Cycle Generating station;
- 2) The retention of, connection into and continued use of existing infrastructure and tie-ins;
- 3) a construction compound and laydown area;
- 4) the retention and continued use of an internal access and haulage road; and
- 5) the decommissioning of the existing gas-fired K1 CHP plant.

The decommissioning of the existing K1 CHP comprises works to make K1 inoperable, but no physical demolition of the existing K1 structure is proposed as part of the DCO being sought.

The K4 CHP plant would tie-in to existing infrastructure and services within the wider paper mill complex, with those tie-ins included within the DCO boundary. The construction compound, laydown area and internal access and haulage road are also all located within the wider DS Smith Kemsley Paper mill site.

There are no compulsory purchase powers sought within the DCO and no rights are sought in respect of statutory undertakers apparatus. Similarly there is no associated development required as part of the proposal. The application is therefore not accompanied by a Book of Reference, Statement of Reasons, Funding Statement or details of associated development.

The draft DCO does make provision for defence to proceedings in respect of statutory nuisance and a Statement of Statutory Nuisances [Document 5.4] is included within the application. It then proposes a number of standard requirements, together with specific requirements intended to deliver the mitigation measures proposed within the Environmental Statement.



The Application

The content of the DCO application is explained within the Application Guide [Document 1.2] which contains a full list of the documents provided and which will be updated as the examination of the application progresses.

The K4 CHP plant falls within Section 3(a) of Schedule 2 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, as an industrial installation for the production of electricity, steam and hot water which does not fall within Schedule 1. The proposed development is considered to have the potential to give rise to significant effects on the environment and the application therefore includes an Environmental Statement [Document 3.1] which provides an Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed development. The ES is based on a Scoping Opinion received from The Planning Inspectorate in September 2017.

The applicant has undertaken the required consultation with those parties identified under S42 of the Act and with the local community under S47, together with the necessary publicity under S48, as documented in the Consultation Report [Document 5.1].

As the proposed development is for the construction of a gas fuelled onshore generating station the application is accompanied by the necessary statement under Regulation 6(1) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 as to who will be responsible for designing and building the connection to the electricity grid and the gas pipeline connection [Document 5.5].

Submission

Two hard copies of the application are provided together with six copies on USB. The acceptance fee of £6,939 has been paid via CHAPS.

I trust the application is complete in all respects and look forward to confirmation of its receipt and in due course its acceptance. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of David Harvey.

David Harvey
Director

Direct email: david.harvey@dhaplanning.co.uk

Enc.