

# The Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order

Land at, and in the vicinity of, Drax Power Station, near Selby, North Yorkshire

## Consultation Report

### Appendix 14 - Section 42 Consultee Letters



The Planning Act 2008 – Section 37(3)(c)  
The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)  
Regulations 2009 – Regulation 5(2)(q)

## Drax Power Limited

### Drax Repower Project

Applicant: DRAX POWER LIMITED  
Date: May 2018  
Document Ref: 5.1.14  
PINS Ref: EN010091

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## 14.1 Section 42(1)(a)-(c) Consultee Letter



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Click here to enter text.

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### **DRAX POWER LIMITED: PROPOSED REPOWER OF UP TO TWO COAL FIRED UNITS TO GAS TOGETHER WITH BATTERY STORAGE AT DRAX POWER STATION**

#### **STATUTORY CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 42 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 (as amended)**

#### **PRE-APPLICATION PUBLICITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 48 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 AND REGULATION 13 OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017**

I write in relation to our proposals for the Drax Repower Project (the 'Project'), comprising the repowering of up to two of the existing generating units at Drax Power Station from coal-fired to gas, with battery storage capability. The new gas units, once constructed, would be able to operate in both combined cycle and open cycle modes and would connect to the existing 400kV National Grid substation within the existing Drax Power Station complex. A new gas pipeline would provide fuel for the new generating units from the national gas transmission system.

The total combined capacity of the proposed Project is up to 3,800MW (see further below in this letter), and as a result it falls within the definition of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') under sections 14 and 15 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the 'Act'). In order to obtain consent to construct, operate and maintain the proposed Project, Drax Power Limited ('Drax') must submit an application (the 'Application') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') under section 37 of the Act. The Application will be submitted to the Secretary of State (the 'SoS') for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and then examined by an Examining Authority appointed from the Planning Inspectorate, before being determined by the SoS. It is anticipated that Drax will submit its proposed Application for the Project in the second quarter of 2018.

Prior to submitting its proposed Application for the Project, Drax must undertake consultation, and this letter forms part of that consultation process.

Drax Power Limited  
Registered Office: Drax Power Station, Selby, North Yorkshire YO8 8PH  
Registered in England and Wales Number 4883589



## 1. Section 42 'Duty to consult'

Section 42 of the Act requires Drax to consult on its proposed Application with those persons specified by the Act and its associated regulations. These persons include, for example, local authorities within or near to the Project site, prescribed consultation bodies (for example, the Environment Agency), those with an interest in the land to which the Application relates (such as land owners, tenants, occupiers, or persons with other interests in land) and those who may be entitled to bring a claim under certain land compensation legislation should the proposed Project be constructed and the land used for the proposed Project. Drax has identified that you fall into one of the categories of people that it needs to consult under section 42 of the Act. As such, you will find enclosed with this letter:

- i. The consultation leaflet that Drax has distributed to the local community as part of the consultation being undertaken under section 47 of the Act (if you live near the proposed Project site, you may have already received this leaflet in the post). The leaflet gives a high level overview of the proposed Project as well as the community consultation that is taking place on the proposed Project;
- ii. the Project Overview Report, which contains the Site location plan, proposed Site Boundary and various other plans and imagery of how the proposed Project could look;
- iii. A USB memory stick containing a full electronic copy of:
  - a. the Project Overview Report;
  - b. the Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR'). The PEIR details the proposed Project and its likely significant environmental effects;
  - c. the Non-Technical Summary ('NTS') of the findings in the PEIR; and
  - d. the Project's Statement of Community Consultation.

These documents will also be available to view and download from the Project website (<http://repower.drax.com>). Hard copies will also be available for inspection at the venues detailed in part 8 of this letter and available on request. Should you want a hard copy of these documents, please contact Drax on [draxrepower@drax.com](mailto:draxrepower@drax.com), 0800 731 8250 or FREEPOST DRAX REPOWER .

The remainder of this letter provides a brief overview of: Drax (the applicant for the proposed Application), the proposed Project, compulsory acquisition, the planning regime under the Act, the PEIR, this consultation, and how you can respond to this consultation.

For further details about the proposed Project, and its potential likely significant environmental effects, please refer to the PEIR and its NTS enclosed with this letter on the accompanying USB stick.

Drax welcomes your comments on the proposed Project. Part 9 of this letter contains details on how you can respond to this consultation. Please note that this consultation will close at **5pm on 27 February 2018** and we therefore invite responses on or before this date. Following the end of the consultation period and receipt of consultee responses, Drax will have regard to the comments received when finalising the proposed Application for submission under the Act.





## **2. Section 48 of the Act and Regulation 13 Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('EIA Regulations 2017') 'Duty to publicise'**

Section 48 of the Act requires applicants for a DCO to publicise their proposed application via a notice ('s48 Notice') once in a national newspaper, once in the London Gazette and (in the case of offshore development – which includes development within tidal waters) once in the Lloyds List and an appropriate fishing journal). A s48 Notice must also be published for two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land to which the development relates. In accordance with these requirements, Drax has published a s48 Notice in the following publications:

- London Gazette – published on 5 January 2018;
- The Times – to be published on 10 January 2018;
- Lloyds List – published on 5 January 2018;
- Fishing News (as the existing Drax jetty on the River Ouse may be used during construction of the Project) – to be published on 10 January 2018; and
- Yorkshire Post – published on 5 January 2018 and to be published on 12 January 2018.

In addition, Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations 2017 requires that the prospective applicant for the DCO, at the same time as publishing notice of the proposed application in accordance with section 48 of the Act, sends a copy of that notice to the 'consultation bodies' and to any person notified to the applicant in accordance with regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations 2017. Drax has identified that you fall into one of the categories of people that it needs to send a copy of the s48 Notice. As such, you will find the s48 Notice enclosed with this letter.

## **3. The Applicant**

Drax Power Station is owned and managed by Drax Power Limited, which is part of the Drax Group Plc; one of the UK's largest energy producers. Drax Power Limited is the applicant for the proposed Application, as referred to in this and all other application and consultation documentation.

## **4. The proposed Project**

The Site Boundary of the proposed Project extends to approximately 234.5 hectares, largely within the curtilage of the operational area of the existing Drax Power Station complex. Within the Project Overview Report is the Site Boundary plan (Appendix A) showing the Site Boundary. The various work areas are shown within the Site Location plan (Appendix B). The Site Boundary currently includes two potential routes for the required gas connection; the two routes are clearly shown on Site Location plan (Appendix B) and are discussed further below.

The proposed Project would comprise the repowering of up to two existing coal-powered generating units (units 5 and 6) at Drax Power Station with the construction of new gas turbines that would operate in both combined cycle and open cycle modes. Each repowered unit would have a new capacity of up to 1,800MW, replacing existing units each with a capacity of up to 660MW. Each repowered unit would (subject to technology and commercial considerations) be connected to its own battery energy storage facility with a capacity of 100MW. Should Drax repower both units and the units are connected to the batteries, then the total combined capacity of the proposed Project would be, therefore, up to 3,800MW. Should Drax repower only one unit and connect that unit to a battery, then the capacity would be up to 1,900MW.

Each new gas fired unit would include up to two gas turbines and up to two Heat Recovery Steam Generators. It is proposed that some of the existing infrastructure within the Drax Power Station complex would support the construction



and operation of the new gas fired generating units, including steam turbines and the cooling solution. It is because of this re-use of existing infrastructure that this project is called a repower project, whilst involving the construction of new gas fired generating units.

The fuel supply for the gas fired generating units is natural gas which would be supplied via a new gas pipeline from the national gas transmission system to the east of the existing Drax Power Station complex. The electricity generated by the gas fired generating units would be exported from the units to a new banking facility within the existing Drax Power Station complex, from which an underground cable connection would transport the electricity to the existing 400kV substation.

Various highway powers to temporarily close highways and, for example, remove highway furniture will also be sought during the construction period to enable materials to be transported to the Site Boundary of the proposed Project.

The proposed Project also includes such infrastructure as is integral and necessary for the generation of electricity.

The main elements of the proposed Project are explained further below. However, more detail, together with plans and illustrative images, can be found in the Project Overview Report and Chapter 3 of the PEIR.

#### *Gas Turbines*

It is proposed to construct up to four separate gas turbines (up to two per repowered generating unit). Air will be drawn into the compressor of the gas turbine and compressed. Fuel is injected into the combustion chamber. The mixture of fuel and compressed air is ignited, producing gases at a high temperature. As the gas expands, it rotates the turbine to produce electricity.

#### *Heat Recovery Steam Generators*

It is proposed to construct up to four Heat Recovery Steam Generators (HRSGs) (up to two per repowered generating unit).

#### *Stacks*

There will be up to 4 stacks per repowered generating unit. When operating in combined cycle mode, the HRSGs recover the heat from hot flue gases from the gas turbines. The heat is used to produce steam that will drive the existing steam turbines. Each HRSG will have a main stack, expected to be up to 120m in height. When operating in open cycle mode, the HRSGs will be bypassed and the exhaust gas from each gas turbine will be sent direct to the atmosphere through a bypass stack, again up to 120m in height.

#### *NO<sub>x</sub> Abatement Technology*

NO<sub>x</sub> abatement technology may be included in the repowered units should there be a need to mitigate the amount of nitrogen oxide emissions from the plant.

#### *Cooling*

Cooling for the new gas turbine generating units will be provided by the existing condensers for the steam turbines and existing cooling water infrastructure including reuse of the existing northern group of cooling towers, cooling water make-up intake and cooling water outfall and other associated infrastructure.

#### *Operation/maintenance and Control*

The repowered units 5 and 6 would be operated and controlled from the current Drax control room which is situated onsite. The proposed generating equipment would be capable of responding to requests from National Grid to provide short-term additional generating capacity and other ancillary grid services, as well as selling electricity into the market. Gas generation allows the new units to respond rapidly to changing demands of the electricity market.



#### *Battery Energy Storage Facility*

Each new gas turbine generating unit would (subject to technical and commercial considerations) be connected to its own battery energy storage facility, which would each have a capacity of up to 100MW per unit and which would support the repowered units in providing fast and flexible electricity export and other ancillary services to the National Grid.

*The proposed Project includes associated development, including:*

- **Gas Pipeline** – a circa 3km pipeline connecting the generating units to the national gas transmission system. The pipeline would extend eastwards from the existing Drax Power Station complex and include above ground supporting infrastructure such as a Minimum Offtake Connection (MOC), Pipeline Inspection Gauge (PIG) Pig Trap Facility (PTF) and on site Pressure Reduction and Metering Station (PRMS). In this consultation, Drax is consulting on two route options for the gas pipeline (shown on the Site Plan within the Project Overview Report). Whilst the intention is to obtain authorisation to acquire the land and/or rights, to construct and to operate the gas pipeline under the DCO for the proposed Project, a separate planning application may be made for the pipeline to Selby District Council for planning permission to construct and operate the gas pipeline. Should Drax make such an application, the DCO application for the proposed Project would still seek compulsory acquisition powers for the pipeline should voluntary agreements not be obtained for the chosen gas pipeline route.
- **Electrical connection:** For both units the output from each generating unit would be banked using Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) housed in a new building close to the generating units. Connection from the GIS banking building to the existing National Grid 400kV substation would be by either:
  - an underground cable; and/or
  - an underground cable that terminates in a new cable sealing end compound outside of the boundary of the existing National Grid 400kV substation and is connected to the existing equipment using overhead conductors.
- The existing electrical connection for each steam turbine would remain unchanged.
- **Carbon Capture Readiness** – in accordance with the EU Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Directive 2009 and the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy ('NPS EN-1'), the gas turbine generating units will be designed to be carbon capture ready (CCR) and a suitable area of land has been identified for the installation of this equipment if required in the future (see Site Location plan (Appendix B) in the Project Overview Report). **Switchyard and Transmission Plant Works in existing 400kV National Grid Switchyard** – as these works are within the existing 400kV switchyard which is owned and operated by National Grid, they may be undertaken by National Grid, but are currently included in the proposed Site Boundary.
- **Construction Laydown** – several areas within the Site Boundary and adjacent area have been identified for use as a temporary construction laydown.
- **Temporary bridge** – an area of land owned by Drax has been identified for use as construction laydown and/or contractor car parking. This area is separated from the existing Drax Power Station complex by New Road, which is a public highway. In order to avoid staff crossing this road on foot a new, temporary pedestrian bridge would be constructed linking the contractor laydown/car parking area with that part of the Project site that lies within the existing Drax Power Station complex.
- **Potential temporary crane on jetty** – the existing Drax jetty on the River Ouse may be used as an option for loading and unloading of large plant and equipment up to the Jetty's current rating of 200 tonnes. Some works may be required to enable the transfer of large plant and equipment from river barges to land transport. These works would comprise: location of a mobile crane alongside the jetty, associated security lighting, fencing and



storage and welfare facilities and laydown areas. An alternative option is for all material to be brought to the Project site by highway, which would mean no works at the existing jetty. Currently, Drax's preferred option is to utilise the highway rather than carry out temporary works, and disturbance, at the jetty.

- *Demolition and relocation of existing facilities* - in order to construct the new generating units and associated facilities, it is proposed to demolish and relocate existing facilities within the existing Drax Power Station complex. This would include the Turbine Outage Stores, Learning centre, contractor's compounds and welfare facilities (temporary), sludge lagoons and a squash court. Some of these works may be undertaken in 2018 as part of ordinary site reconfiguration works, but in any event the works would be included in Drax's environmental assessment of the proposed Project.
- *Other ancillary works* - it may be necessary to remove and restring some of the existing overhead lines during the construction phase of the development. These works would be led by National Grid.
- *Highway Powers* - powers to carry out some highway works may be necessary in order to transport Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL) from the M62 to the Project Site. These powers are likely to include the temporary stopping up of roads and removal of barriers. The land will be reinstated to its former condition once the AILs are delivered to site. No development is proposed.

#### 5. Compulsory Acquisition of land and/or rights and temporary possession of land

At this stage of the proposed Project's development, the Application for a DCO for the proposed Project may seek the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights over land (including rights to use land) for the proposed Project - together with temporary possession of land during the construction and commissioning periods. Drax is commencing and/or continuing discussions with those persons who may be affected and is keen to reach agreement, where possible, with those persons prior to submission of the Application.

#### 6. The DCO process

The repowering of each unit from coal to gas involves the construction of a gas-fired generating station with a capacity of more than 50 megawatts. Each battery energy storage facility would also have a capacity of more than 50 megawatts. As the total combined capacity of the Project is up to 3,800MW, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Act.

As the proposed Project constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project as outlined above, Drax must make an application under the Act for a permission known as a Development Consent Order ('DCO') to construct and operate the proposed Project. Drax intends to submit the proposed Application for the Project to the SoFS in the second quarter of 2018. The proposed Application will include supporting documents including a Consultation Report, which will record the results of this consultation exercise and demonstrate how Drax has had regard to the consultation responses in preparing its Application.

As the proposed Project falls under paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 1 (Thermal power stations and other combustion installations with a heat output of 300 megawatts or more) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environment Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations 2017'), the proposed Application will also be supported by an Environmental Statement ('ES') that will be prepared following the undertaking of an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA'). The ES will contain information about the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed Project, and how any adverse effects will be mitigated. The ES will be prepared in accordance with a 'Scoping Opinion' that has been issued under Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations 2017 by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the SoFS on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017. This Scoping Opinion sets out the scope of the environmental assessments that must be undertaken by Drax in order to adequately assess any potential significant effects. The ES will provide a detailed description of the proposed Project and its environmental effects, as well as other matters required by the EIA Regulations 2017. As part





of this consultation, you can view the PEIR, which sets out Drax's preliminary view of the likely significant environmental effects (see further below).

The decision maker for the proposed Application, once submitted, is the SofS. The Application will be examined by an Examining Authority (a single Inspector or panel of Inspectors appointed from the Planning Inspectorate) on behalf of the SofS over a six month examination period. The Examining Authority will then make a recommendation to the SofS, and the SofS will then make the final decision whether or not to grant a DCO for the Application. Drax anticipates that the examination period would run from the third quarter 2018 until early 2019, with a decision from the SofS in the third quarter of 2019.

If granted, the DCO would give authorisation for the construction and operation of the proposed Project. The DCO would include powers required to construct and operate the Project including compulsory acquisition powers (as explained above) for the permanent acquisition of land and / or rights over land. The DCO may also include (if required) powers for the temporary occupation of land, the extinguishment or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Project, the application and / or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project, various highway powers to temporarily close highways and, for example, to remove highway furniture during construction and tree and hedgerow removal, amongst other matters.

## **7. Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)**

The PEIR contains the environmental information so far compiled about the proposed Project and the results of the preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed Project, as well as an indication of proposed mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects.

The PEIR does not contain the final findings, as the EIA is ongoing and a full ES will be submitted as part of the proposed Application. The Non Technical Summary of the PEIR provides a "plain English" overview of the findings and preliminary assessments set out in the PEIR.

For information on our preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed Project, please refer to relevant sections of the PEIR NTS and/or PEIR as directed below:

PEIR Chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Planning Policy
3. Site and Project Description
4. Consideration of Alternatives
5. Traffic and Transport
6. Air Quality
7. Noise and Vibration
8. Historic Environment
9. Biodiversity
10. Landscape and Visual
11. Ground Conditions and Contamination
12. Water Resource, Quality and Hydrology
13. Waste
14. Socioeconomics
15. Cumulative Effects



Information on our preliminary assessment, as set out in the PEIR, will be available in a variety of locations as set out below.

## 8. The Consultation

Drax hosted informal engagement events in the local area on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2017. The objective of these informal events was to introduce the proposed Project to communities closest to the Project and hear their initial feedback ahead of the statutory consultation that is the subject of this letter.

As well as consulting with you, Drax will be consulting with people living and working in the vicinity of the Project as well as the whole of England and Wales under sections 47 and 48 of the Act.

Drax (as required by the Act) has prepared a Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') which has been the subject of consultation with Selby District Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and North Yorkshire City Council. The SoCC sets out how Drax will undertake the statutory consultation for the Application with those people living and working in the vicinity of the Project. The SoCC can be viewed at the locations below and on the Project website: <http://repower.drax.com> until 27th February 2018. The SoCC is also on the USB stick enclosed with this letter.

The consultation documents, being the Project Overview Report, the PEIR, the NTS PEIR, and the consultation leaflet are all contained on the USB stick enclosed with this letter (in addition to a hard copy of the consultation leaflet and Project Overview Report). They can also be available to view from 16th January 2018 until 27th February 2018 on the Project website: <http://repower.drax.com> and for inspection free of charge at the following locations and times:

- **Selby Library**, 52 Micklegate, Selby, YO8 4EQ. Mon - 9.30am - 7.30pm; Tues, Wed & Fri - 9.30am - 5.30pm; Thurs & Sat - 9.30am - 12.30pm.
- **Snaith Library**, 27 Market Place, Snaith, Goole, DN14 9HE. Tues - 2pm - 6pm; Thurs - 10am - 4pm; Sat - 10am - 12noon.
- **Goole Library**, Carlisle Street, Goole, DN14 5DS Mon & Wed - 9.30am - 7pm; Tues, Thurs & Fri 9.30am - 5pm; Sat - 9.00am - 4.00pm.
- **North Yorkshire County Council**, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD. Mon to Thurs - 8am - 5.30pm; Fri - 8am - 4.30pm.
- **Selby District Council (Access Selby)**, Market Cross Shopping Centre, YO8 4JS. Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri - 9.30am - 4pm; Wed - 10am - 4pm.
- **Customer Service Centre, East Riding of Yorkshire Council**, Cross Street, Beverley, HU17 9BA. Mon-Thurs - 9am-5pm; Fri - 9am-4pm.

Public exhibitions will also be held at the following dates, times and locations:

- **Selby Town Hall**, York St, Selby, YO8 4AJ. Saturday 20th January 2018 from 10am until 4pm.
- **Drax Sports & Social Club**, Main Road, Drax, YO8 8PJ. Tuesday 23rd January 2018 from 3pm until 8pm.
- **Junction**, 2 Paradise Place, Goole, DN14 5DL. Wednesday 24th January 2018 from 2pm until 7pm.
- **Selby Town Hall**, York Street, Selby, YO8 4AJ. Thursday 1st February 2018 from 10am until 4pm.



- **Hemingbrough Methodist Church Hall**, 2 Main Street, Hemingbrough, Selby YO8 6QE. Friday, 2nd February 2018 from 9.30am until 1.30pm.

These exhibitions will provide an opportunity for the local community and stakeholders to view the more specific Project proposals, speak to the project team and comment on the proposals. As well as information on the proposed Project, the exhibitions will provide the opportunity to discuss and understand the DCO process, including how you may register your views and opinions throughout the decision making process post submission of the Application.

#### 9. How to respond to the consultation

We would welcome your views on the proposed Project. You can respond to the consultation by:

- Visit and speak to us at any of the above consultation events, where you may utilise feedback forms provided.
- Write to us at: FREEPOST DRAX REPOWER.
- Visit the scheme webpage: <http://repower.drax.com> which has an online feedback form.
- E-mail us: [draxrepower@drax.com](mailto:draxrepower@drax.com).
- Call us: 0800 731 8250.

When making a response or representation, please include your name / the name of the body or organisation, the main contact person and an address where correspondence about your response or representation may be sent.

All responses and representations on the Project must be received by Drax on or before 5pm on 27th February 2018.

Your comments will be analysed by Drax and any of its appointed agents. Copies may be made available in due course to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that your comments can be considered as part of the DCO application process. We will request that your personal details are not placed on public record and will be held securely by Drax in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent DCO application and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Doyle  
Environmental Consents Officer

#### Enclosures:

1. S48 Notice;
2. Consultation leaflet;
3. Project Overview Report;
4. USB Stick.

## 14.2 Section 42(1)(d) Consultee Letter



Name  
Address

Drax Power Station  
Selby  
North Yorkshire  
YO8 8PH  
+449(0)1757 618381  
www.drax.com

Date: 12th January 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

### **DRAX POWER LIMITED: PROPOSED REPOWER OF UP TO TWO COAL FIRED UNITS TO GAS TOGETHER WITH BATTERY STORAGE AT DRAX POWER STATION**

#### **STATUTORY CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 42 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 (as amended)**

I write in relation to our proposals for the Drax Repower Project (the 'Project'), comprising the repowering of up to two of the existing generating units at Drax Power Station from coal-fired to gas, with battery storage capability. The new gas units, once constructed, would be able to operate in both combined cycle and open cycle modes and would connect to the existing 400kV National Grid substation within the existing Drax Power Station complex. A new gas pipeline would provide fuel for the new generating units from the national gas transmission system.

The total combined capacity of the proposed Project is up to 3,800MW (see further below in this letter), and as a result it falls within the definition of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') under sections 14 and 15 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the 'Act'). In order to obtain consent to construct, operate and maintain the proposed Project, Drax Power Limited ('Drax') must submit an application (the 'Application') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') under section 37 of the Act. The Application will be submitted to the Secretary of State (the 'SoS') for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and then examined by an Examining Authority appointed from the Planning Inspectorate, before being determined by the SoS. It is anticipated that Drax will submit its proposed Application for the Project in the second quarter of 2018.

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currently includes two potential routes for the required gas connection; the two routes are clearly shown on the Site Boundary plan (Appendix A) and are discussed further below.

The proposed Project would comprise the repowering of up to two existing coal-powered generating units (units 5 and 6) at Drax Power Station with the construction of new gas turbines that would operate in both combined cycle and open cycle modes. Each repowered unit would have a new capacity of up to 1,800MW, replacing existing units each with a capacity of up to 660MW. Each repowered unit would (subject to technology and commercial considerations) be connected to its own battery energy storage facility with a capacity of 100MW. Should Drax repower both units and the units are connected to the batteries, then the total combined capacity of the proposed Project would be, therefore, up to 3,800MW. Should Drax repower only one unit and connect that unit to a battery, then the capacity would be up to 1,900MW.

Each new gas fired unit would include up to two gas turbines and up to two Heat Recovery Steam Generators. It is proposed that some of the existing infrastructure within the Drax Power Station complex would support the construction and operation of the new gas fired generating units, including steam turbines and the cooling solution. It is because of this re-use of existing infrastructure that this project is called a repower project, whilst involving the construction of new gas fired generating units.

The fuel supply for the gas fired generating units is natural gas which would be supplied via a new gas pipeline from the national gas transmission system to the east of the existing Drax Power Station complex. The electricity generated by the gas fired generating units would be exported from the units to a new banking facility within the existing Drax Power Station complex, from which an underground cable connection would transport the electricity to the existing 400kV substation.

Various highway powers to temporarily close highways and, for example, remove highway furniture will also be sought during the construction period to enable materials to be transported to the Site Boundary of the proposed Project.

The proposed Project also includes such infrastructure as is integral and necessary for the generation of electricity.

The main elements of the proposed Project are explained further below. However, more detail, together with plans and illustrative images, can be found in the Project Overview Report and Chapter 3 of the PEIR.

#### **Gas Turbines**

It is proposed to construct up to four separate gas turbines (up to two per repowered generating unit). Air will be drawn into the compressor of the gas turbine and compressed. Fuel is injected into the combustion chamber. The mixture of fuel and compressed air is ignited, producing gases at a high temperature. As the gas expands, it rotates the turbine to produce electricity.

#### **Heat Recovery Steam Generators**

It is proposed to construct up to four Heat Recovery Steam Generators (HRSGs) (up to two per repowered generating unit).

#### **Stacks**

There will be up to 4 stacks per repowered generating unit. When operating in combined cycle mode, the HRSGs recover the heat from hot flue gases from the gas turbines. The heat is used to produce steam



that will drive the existing steam turbines. Each HRSG will have a main stack, expected to be up to 120m in height. When operating in open cycle mode, the HRSGs will be bypassed and the exhaust gas from each gas turbine will be sent direct to the atmosphere through a bypass stack, again up to 120m in height.

#### ***NOx Abatement Technology***

NOx abatement technology may be included in the repowered units should there be a need to mitigate the amount of nitrogen oxide emissions from the plant.

#### ***Cooling***

Cooling for the new gas turbine generating units will be provided by the existing condensers for the steam turbines and existing cooling water infrastructure including reuse of the existing northern group of cooling towers, cooling water make-up intake and cooling water outfall and other associated infrastructure.

#### ***Operation/maintenance and Control***

The repowered units 5 and 6 would be operated and controlled from the current Drax control room which is situated onsite. The proposed generating equipment would be capable of responding to requests from National Grid to provide short-term additional generating capacity and other ancillary grid services, as well as selling electricity into the market. Gas generation allows the new units to respond rapidly to changing demands of the electricity market.

#### ***Battery Energy Storage Facility***

Each new gas turbine generating unit would (subject to technical and commercial considerations) be connected to its own battery energy storage facility, which would each have a capacity of up to 100MW per unit and which would support the repowered units in providing fast and flexible electricity export and other ancillary services to the National Grid.

#### ***The proposed Project Includes associated development, including:***

- **Gas Pipeline** – a circa 3km pipeline connecting the generating units to the national gas transmission system. The pipeline would extend eastwards from the existing Drax Power Station complex and include above ground supporting infrastructure such as a Minimum Offtake Connection (MOC), Pipeline Inspection Gauge (PIG) Pig Trap Facility (PTF) and on site Pressure Reduction and Metering Station (PRMS). In this consultation, Drax is consulting on two route options for the gas pipeline (shown on the Site Location plan (Appendix B) within the Project Overview Report). Whilst the intention is to obtain authorisation to acquire the land and/or rights, to construct and to operate the gas pipeline under the DCO for the proposed Project, a separate planning application may be made for the pipeline to Selby District Council for planning permission to construct and operate the gas pipeline. Should Drax make such an application, the DCO application for the proposed Project would still seek compulsory acquisition powers for the pipeline should voluntary agreements not be obtained for the chosen gas pipeline route.
- **Electrical connection:** for both units the output from each generating unit would be banked using Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) housed in a new building close to the generating units. Connection from the GIS banking building to the existing National Grid 400kV substation would be by either:
  - an underground cable; and/or
  - an underground cable that terminates in a new cable sealing end compound outside of the boundary of the existing National Grid 400kV substation and is connected to the existing equipment using overhead conductors.



- The existing electrical connection for each steam turbine would remain unchanged.
- **Carbon Capture Readiness** – in accordance with the EU Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Directive 2009 and the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy ('NPS EN-1'), the gas turbine generating units will be designed to be carbon capture ready (CCR) and a suitable area of land has been identified for the installation of this equipment if required in the future (see Site Location plan, Appendix B in the Project Overview Report).
- **Switchyard and Transmission Plant Works in existing 400kV National Grid Switchyard** – as these works are within the existing 400kV switchyard which is owned and operated by National Grid, they may be undertaken by National Grid, but are currently included in the proposed Site Boundary.
- **Construction Laydown** – several areas within the Site Boundary and adjacent area have been identified for use as a temporary construction laydown.
- **Temporary bridge** – an area of land owned by Drax has been identified for use as construction laydown and/or contractor car parking. This area is separated from the existing Drax Power Station complex by New Road, which is a public highway. In order to avoid staff crossing this road on foot a new, temporary pedestrian bridge would be constructed linking the contractor laydown/car parking area with that part of the Project site that lies within the existing Drax Power Station complex.
- **Potential temporary crane on jetty** – the existing Drax jetty on the River Ouse may be used as an option for loading and unloading of large plant and equipment up to the jetty's current rating of 200 tonnes. Some works may be required to enable the transfer of large plant and equipment from river barges to land transport. These works would comprise: location of a mobile crane alongside the jetty, associated security lighting, fencing and storage and welfare facilities and laydown areas. An alternative option is for all material to be brought to the Project site by highway, which would mean no works at the existing jetty. Currently, Drax's preferred option is to utilise the highway rather than carry out temporary works, and disturbance, at the jetty.
- **Demolition and relocation of existing facilities** – in order to construct the new generating units and associated facilities, it is proposed to demolish and relocate existing facilities within the existing Drax Power Station complex. This would include the Turbine Outage Stores, Learning centre, contractor's compounds and welfare facilities (temporary), sludge lagoons and a squash court. Some of these works may be undertaken in 2018 as part of ordinary site reconfiguration works, but in any event the works would be included in Drax's environmental assessment of the proposed Project.
- **Other ancillary works** – it may be necessary to remove and restring some of the existing overhead lines during the construction phase of the development. These works would be led by National Grid.
- **Highway Powers** – powers to carry out some highway works may be necessary in order to transport Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL) from the M62 to the Project site. These powers are likely to include the temporary stopping up of roads and removal of barriers. The land will be reinstated to its former condition once the AILs are delivered to site. No development is proposed.

#### 4. Compulsory Acquisition of land and/or rights and temporary possession of land

At this stage of the proposed Project's development, the Application for a DCO for the proposed Project may seek the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights over land (including rights to use land) for the





proposed Project - together with temporary possession of land during the construction and commissioning periods. Drax is commencing and/or continuing discussions with those persons who may be affected and is keen to reach agreement, where possible, with those persons prior to submission of the Application.

## 5. The DCO process

The repowering of each unit from coal to gas involves the construction of a gas-fired generating station with a capacity of more than 50 megawatts. Each battery energy storage facility would also have a capacity of more than 50 megawatts. As the total combined capacity of the proposed Project is up to 3,800MW, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Act.

As the proposed Project constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project as outlined above, Drax must make an application under the Act for a permission known as a Development Consent Order ('DCO') to construct and operate the proposed Project. Drax intends to submit the proposed Application for the Project to the SoFS in the second quarter of 2018. The proposed Application will include supporting documents including a Consultation Report, which will record the results of this consultation exercise and demonstrate how Drax has had regard to the consultation responses in preparing its Application.

As the proposed Project falls under paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 1 (Thermal power stations and other combustion installations with a heat output of 300 megawatts or more) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations 2017'), the proposed Application will also be supported by an Environmental Statement ('ES') that will be prepared following the undertaking of an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA'). The ES will contain information about the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed Project, and how any adverse effects will be mitigated. The ES will be prepared in accordance with a 'Scoping Opinion' that has been issued under Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations 2017 by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the SoFS on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017. This Scoping Opinion sets out the scope of the environmental assessments that must be undertaken by Drax in order to adequately assess any potential significant effects. The ES will provide a detailed description of the proposed Project and its environmental effects, as well as other matters required by the EIA Regulations 2017. As part of this consultation, you can view the PEIR, which sets out Drax's preliminary view of the likely significant environmental effects (see further below).

The decision maker for the proposed Application, once submitted, is the SoFS. The Application will be examined by an Examining Authority (a single Inspector or panel of Inspectors appointed from the Planning Inspectorate) on behalf of the SoFS over a six month examination period. The Examining Authority will then make a recommendation to the SoFS, and the SoFS will then make the final decision whether or not to grant a DCO for the Application. Drax anticipates that the examination period would run from the third quarter 2018 until early 2019, with a decision from the SoFS in the third quarter of 2019.

If granted, the DCO would give authorisation for the construction and operation of the proposed Project. The DCO would include powers required to construct and operate the Project including compulsory acquisition powers (as explained above) for the permanent acquisition of land and / or rights over land.

The DCO may also include (if required) powers for the temporary occupation of land, the extinguishment or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Project, the application and / or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project, various highway powers to temporarily close highways and, for example, to remove highway furniture during construction and may include tree and hedgerow removal, amongst other matters.

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## 6. Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

The PEIR contains the environmental information so far compiled about the proposed Project and the results of the preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed Project, as well as an indication of proposed mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects.

The PEIR does not contain the final findings, as the EIA is ongoing and a full ES will be submitted as part of the proposed Application. The Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR provides a "plain English" overview of the findings and preliminary assessments set out in the PEIR.

For information on our preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed Project, please refer to relevant sections of the PEIR NTS and/or PEIR as directed below:

PEIR Chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Planning Policy
3. Site and Project Description
4. Consideration of Alternatives
5. Traffic and Transport
6. Air Quality
7. Noise and Vibration
8. Historic Environment
9. Biodiversity
10. Landscape and Visual
11. Ground Conditions and Contamination
12. Water Resource, Quality and Hydrology
13. Waste
14. Socioeconomics
15. Cumulative Effects

Information on our preliminary assessment, as set out in the PEIR, will be available in a variety of locations as set out below.

## 7. The Consultation

Drax hosted informal engagement events in the local area on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2017. The objective of these informal events was to introduce the proposed Project to communities closest to the Project site and hear their initial feedback ahead of the statutory consultation that is the subject of this letter.

As well as consulting with you, Drax will be consulting with people living and working in the vicinity of the Project as well as the whole of England and Wales under sections 47 and 48 of the Act.

Drax (as required by the Act) has prepared a Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') which has been the subject of consultation with Selby District Council, East Riding of Yorkshire District Council and North Yorkshire City Council. The SoCC sets out how Drax will undertake the statutory consultation for the proposed Application with those people living and working in the vicinity of the Project. The SoCC can be



viewed at the locations below and on the Project website: <http://repower.drax.com> until 27th February 2018. The SoCC is also on the USB stick enclosed with this letter.

The consultation documents, being the Project Overview Report, the PEIR, the NTS PEIR, and the consultation leaflet are all contained on the USB stick enclosed with this letter (in addition to a hard copy of the consultation leaflet and Project Overview Report). They can also be available to view from 16th January 2018 until 27th February 2018 on the Project website: <http://repower.drax.com> and for inspection free of charge at the following locations and times:

- **Selby Library**, 52 Micklegate, Selby, YO8 4EQ. Mon - 9.30am - 7.30pm; Tues, Wed & Fri - 9.30am - 5.30pm; Thurs & Sat - 9.30am - 12.30pm.
- **Snaith Library**, 27 Market Place, Snaith, Goole, DN14 9HE. Tues - 2pm - 6pm; Thurs - 10am - 4pm; Sat - 10am - 12noon.
- **Goole Library**, Carlisle Street, Goole, DN14 5DS Mon & Wed - 9.30am - 7pm; Tues, Thurs & Fri 9.30am - 5pm; Sat - 9.00am - 4.00pm.
- **North Yorkshire County Council**, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD. Mon to Thurs - 8am - 5.30pm; Fri - 8am - 4.30pm
- **Selby District Council (Access Selby)**, Market Cross Shopping Centre, YO8 4JS. Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri - 9.30am - 4pm; Wed - 10am - 4pm.
- **Customer Service Centre, East Riding of Yorkshire Council**, Cross Street, Beverley, HU17 9BA. Mon-Thurs - 9am-5pm; Fri - 9am-4pm.

Public exhibitions will also be held at the following dates, times and locations:

- **Selby Town Hall**, York St, Selby, YO8 4AJ. Saturday 20th January 2018 from 10am until 4pm.
- **Drax Sports & Social Club**, Main Road, Drax, YO8 8PJ. Tuesday 23rd January 2018 from 3pm until 8pm.
- **Junction**, 2 Paradise Place, Goole, DN14 5DL. Wednesday 24th January 2018 from 2pm until 7pm.
- **Selby Town Hall**, York Street, Selby, YO8 4AJ. Thursday 1st February 2018 from 10am until 4pm.
- **Hemingbrough Methodist Church Hall**, 2 Main Street, Hemingbrough, Selby YO8 6QE. Friday, 2nd February 2018 from 9.30am until 1.30pm.

These exhibitions will provide an opportunity for the local community and stakeholders to view the more specific Project proposals, speak to the project team and comment on the proposals. As well as information on the proposed Project, the exhibitions will provide the opportunity to discuss and understand the DCO process, including how you may register your views and opinions throughout the decision making process post submission of the Application.

## 8. How to respond to the consultation

We would welcome your views on the proposed Project. You can respond to the consultation by:

Drax Power Limited  
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Registered in England and Wales Number: 4087182



- Visit and speak to us at any of the above consultation events, where you may utilise feedback forms provided.
- Write to us at: FREEPOST DRAX REPOWER.
- Visit the scheme webpage: <http://repower.drax.com> which has an online feedback form.
- E-mail us: [draxrepower@drax.com](mailto:draxrepower@drax.com).
- Call us: 0800 731 8250.

When making a response or representation, please include your name / the name of the body or organisation, the main contact person and an address where correspondence about your response or representation may be sent.

All responses and representations on the Project must be received by Drax on or before **5pm on 27th February 2018**.

Your comments will be analysed by Drax and any of its appointed agents. Copies may be made available in due course to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that your comments can be considered as part of the DCO application process. We will request that your personal details are not placed on public record and will be held securely by Drax in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent DCO application and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties.

Yours sincerely,

**Jim Doyle Environmental Consents Officer**

**Enclosures:**

1. Consultation leaflet;
2. Project Overview Report;
3. USB Stick.