



Meeting note

File reference	EN010091
Status	Final
Author	Karl-Jonas Johansson
Date	14 November 2017
Meeting with	Drax Power Limited
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate: Chris White (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Kay Sully (Case Manager) Hannah Pratt (Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor) Emma Cottam (EIA and Land Rights Advisor) Karl-Jonas Johansson (Case Officer) Drax Power Limited Oliver Baybut (Drax) Jim Doyle (Drax) Jenny Blyth (Drax) Richard Griffiths (Pinsent Masons) Clare Hennessey (WSP) Chris Taylor (WSP) Sheery Sassoon (WSP)
Meeting objectives	Project meeting update
Circulation	All attendees.

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Welcome and Introductions

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) team introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate outlined its openness policy and ensured that those present understood that any issues discussed and advice given would be recorded and placed on the Inspectorate's website under section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the Applicant (or others) can rely.

Project update

The Applicant set out changes to the project that had occurred since the Scoping Opinion had been issued. The main changes were a small extension to the redline boundary around the proposed location options for the Gas Insulated Substation following discussions with National Grid; and extending the redline boundary around the area set aside for Carbon Capture Storage by approximately 20m to the north. The latter extension was to accommodate the potential need (subject to EIA assessment) for screening of a scheduled monument north of the site. The Applicant confirmed that it was in discussions with Historic England (HE) regarding the setting of the scheduled monument.

The Applicant also outlined various changes to the land uses within the redline boundary, subsequent to that described in the Scoping Report. The Carbon Capture laydown area has been moved from area A (as identified in the Scoping Report) to areas A and B. The orientation of the battery storage area may change and could be built across areas C and E instead of being built solely in area E, as described in the Scoping Report. The Applicant stated that none of these changes would result in substantially different environmental impacts to those presented in the Scoping Report.

The Applicant has undertaken sensitivity modelling on the stack height which was initially identified as being 70m high. In order to minimise air quality impacts, the Applicant is looking at potentially increasing this to approximately 120m. The Applicant has agreed with the local authority that changing the stack height to approximately 120m would not impact the study area for the air quality assessment.

The Applicant will inform all Statutory Parties and the Inspectorate in writing about these changes to the project. The Inspectorate informed the Applicant that, if considered necessary, it would issue advice under s51 of the PA2008 regarding the changes.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it is currently reconsidering the use of the jetty for the delivery of construction plant/materials, in light of responses to the scoping consultation. Due to various constraints such as tide times, potential impacts on otters and birds, size of equipment and weight restrictions it might not be viable to deliver construction materials to the site by barge and so this may need to instead be transported by road. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that if use of the jetty is removed from the project, to ensure it is documented in the ES as an alternative and evident that this is a project change.

The Applicant intends to have a preferred gas pipeline route when it starts statutory consultation in 2018 (but with two options still being shown) and confirmed their intention is for the draft Development Consent Order to only contain one gas pipeline option.

Programme

The Applicant has started formal consultation with the local authority on their Statement of Community Consultation. During its informal consultation with the LA, they were generally happy with the draft as submitted.

The Applicant set out what non-statutory consultation it had already undertaken, which included informal engagement and exhibitions. Most of the feedback received

was positive. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to ensure this is clearly documented within the consultation report.

The Applicant confirmed that it was engaging with the relevant parish councils, the Environment Agency, Natural England (NE) and HE. The Inspectorate queried whether the Applicant had had any contact with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) as they provided detailed comments in their scoping consultation response. The Applicant confirmed that it had not yet engaged with the MMO as the Applicant was still working on the issues relating to the jetty and so once they have a better understanding of the use of the jetty, they will liaise with the MMO.

Statutory consultation on the project will run from 16 January to 27 February 2018.

The Applicant expressed an interest in doing a draft documents review in two phases. The Inspectorate clarified that the draft documents review usually takes six weeks with a face to face meeting and written advice afterwards. The Inspectorate highlighted the risk of a phased approach, as some documents need to be reviewed together and therefore some of the advice might have to be given after the second tranche of documents had been submitted. It was clarified that whilst the Inspectorate is able to conduct a review of the draft Habitats Regulations Assessment, it is only able to review the draft project description chapter of Environmental Statements. It was agreed that the Applicant would highlight in the cover letter accompanying the draft documents any novel approaches taken or particular areas of concern to aid with the review and reduce the time needed.

The Inspectorate highlighted the risk of reviewing the draft documents close to the submission date. The Applicant was recommended to share its draft documents with the statutory parties, if considered appropriate, as this could also assist with drafting the Statements of Common Ground.

The Applicant intends to submit the application by the end of May 2018.

Surveys

Ecological walk over surveys and geophysical surveys are ongoing. Surveys relating to the gas pipeline will be conducted in the spring of 2018. It was confirmed that some of the surveys planned might not be completed before the application was submitted. The Applicant was advised to seek agreement with NE as to how to progress with regard to any incomplete surveys.

AOB

The Inspectorate informed the Applicant that under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, the relevant representation period for applications which are EIA development is now a minimum of 30 days.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

- Next meeting to be scheduled after the close of statutory consultation; and
- Applicant to suggest dates for draft documents review meeting.

