



Transboundary screening undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) for the purposes of Regulation 32 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 2017 EIA Regulations)	
Project name:	Thurrock Flexible Generation Plant
Address/Location:	Land adjacent to the National Grid Substation and the north of the former power station at Tilbury, Thurrock
Planning Inspectorate Ref:	EN010092
Date(s) screening undertaken:	First screening – 06 December 2018 following the Applicant’s request for a Scoping Opinion Second screening – 06 July 2020 following submission of the application documents

FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING	
Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:	EIA Scoping Report – Thurrock Flexible Generation Plant, dated July 2018 ('the Scoping Report')
Screening Criteria:	The Inspectorate’s Comments: The review and comments made below are based upon information provided by the Applicant in the Scoping Report.
Characteristics of the Development	The Proposed Development broadly comprises the construction and operation of what the Applicant describes as a ' <i>flexible generation plant</i> '. The Proposed Development would provide up to 600 megawatts (MW) of gas-powered electrical generation capacity on a fast response basis when called by the National Grid, together with up to 150MW of battery storage capacity. The main elements of the Proposed Development include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 60 reciprocating gas engine units with a total generation capacity of 600MW; including up to 60 exhaust stacks each up to 40m in height; • Batteries with output of 150MW and storage capacity up to 600MWh²; • Gas pipeline approximately 2.5km in length and above ground installation (AGI) connecting to Feeder 18 of the National Grid Transmission gas network; • Connection to existing National Grid electricity substation via underground cables; • Potential cooling water pipeline to the River Thames, around 2.5km in length; • Private access roads and some widening of the public

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> highway to facilitate delivery of large loads; • Designation of replacement common land and possible creation of habitat for protected species translocation; and • Possible transfer of land to Thurrock Council for planning gain. <p>The Scoping Report identifies available options for the principal components of the Proposed Development. The options include those in relation to the gas pipeline route, access to the site via road/ water and gas engine cooling (which may be via air cooling or a cooling water pipeline to the River Thames).</p> <p>Construction of the Proposed Development is anticipated to take approximately 12 months, with a high level overview of the construction programme provided in paragraph 3.40 of the Scoping Report.</p> <p>Paragraphs 3.2 and 3.17 of the Scoping Report explain that the Proposed Development will be designed to operate for up to 2,750 hours per year, for at least 35 years. Operation will be reviewed after 35 years and once it has ceased, the Proposed Development would be decommissioned. The Scoping Report identifies the potential for the Proposed Development to produce pollution and nuisances from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions to air, water and soil; • Light; • Noise and vibration; and • Traffic movements. <p>The Scoping Report acknowledges that waste will be generated during construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Development but minimal volumes of waste would be produced during operation.</p>
<p>Location of Development (including existing use) and Geographical area</p>	<p>The application site is located primarily on common and agricultural land in the south east of the borough of Thurrock, Essex. The application site extends into the River Thames which flows out into the Thames Estuary. The site location is illustrated on Figure 1 of the Scoping Report.</p> <p>The town of Tilbury is located approximately 800m to the west of the application site. Landfill sites are located to the east and south east. The site of the former Tilbury power station lies to the south, with the River Thames beyond. Industrial land uses are located to the south and south west, including Tilbury port and docks and a water recycling centre.</p> <p>The Scoping Report does not identify the nearest EEA State to the Proposed Development.</p>
<p>Environmental Importance</p>	<p>The Scoping Report identifies the following European sites within 10km of the Proposed Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Thames Estuary and Marshes Special Protection Area (SPA); and • The Thames Estuary and Marshes Ramsar site.

	<p>The locations of these sites in relation to the Proposed Development are illustrated on Figure 13 of the Scoping Report. The Scoping Report explains (paragraph 8.99) that the Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA and Ramsar site (which include marine areas) are located approximately 2.6km east of the 'main development site'. However, the Proposed Development includes the potential cooling water pipeline and gas pipeline options which extend closer towards the Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA and Ramsar site (as illustrated on Figure 13 of the Scoping Report).</p> <p>Figure 13 of the Scoping Report also identifies Benfleet and Southend Marshes SPA and Ramsar site (to the north east of the application site); and Medway Estuary and Marshes SPA and Ramsar site (to the south east of the application site). Whilst distances to these sites are not provided, Figure 13 illustrates that they are over 10km from the Proposed Development. The Scoping Report refers to wintering and passage birds but does not refer to specific species. Nor does it state whether any qualifying features of the designated sites are migratory species. The Scoping Report does explain that the River Thames is used by various fish species for seasonal migration and spawning (paragraphs 8.104 to 8.109 of the Scoping Report).</p> <p>The Water Framework Directive (WFD) status of the water bodies in and around the application site has not been confirmed in the Scoping Report. It is stated that the assessment in the Environmental Statement will consider impacts relating to the WFD.</p>
<p>Potential impacts and Carrier</p>	<p>The Scoping Report identifies UK European sites in proximity to the Proposed Development and states that the Proposed Development could potentially have adverse impacts on these sites.</p> <p>The Scoping Report identifies the following potential impact pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions to water; • Changes to water temperatures; entrainment or other mortality/morbidity of fish and aquatic ecology during operation of the cooling water pipeline; • Disturbance to birds during construction of the Proposed Development; and • Emissions to air – dust and vehicle emissions during construction and emissions from the exhaust stacks during operation (primarily nitrogen oxides) <p>The Inspectorate has also considered impacts to populations of migratory species associated with designated sites in other EEA States as a pathway for effects. The information currently provided (in the Applicant's Scoping Report) indicates that while pathways could exist, the impacts that are anticipated to occur would be unlikely to result in significant effects on the environment in other EEA States (paragraph 6.63 of the Scoping Report).</p>

Extent	Due to the location and nature of the Proposed Development, the Applicant considers that there is no potential for impacts on the environment in another EEA State (paragraph 6.63 of the Scoping Report).
Magnitude	The Scoping Report has not identified any impacts which would be likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.
Probability	The Scoping Report has not identified any impacts which would be likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.
Duration	The Scoping Report has not identified any impacts which would be likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.
Frequency	The Scoping Report has not identified any impacts which would be likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.
Reversibility	The Scoping Report has not identified any impacts which would be likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.
Cumulative impacts	<p>Paragraphs 6.45 to 6.61 of the Scoping Report consider cumulative effects, including a list of other developments identified for inclusion in the assessment at this stage. The identified developments include other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (Tilbury2, the Lower Thames Crossing and Tilbury Energy Centre) and applications under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.</p> <p>The Applicant's cumulative effects assessment has not yet been undertaken and the Applicant has not identified any likely significant cumulative effects at this stage.</p>

Transboundary screening undertaken by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS

Under Regulation 32 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 2017 EIA Regulations) and on the basis of the current information available from the Applicant, the Inspectorate is of the view that the Proposed Development **is not likely** to have a significant effect on the environment in another EEA State.

In reaching this view the Inspectorate has applied the precautionary approach (as explained in its Advice Note Twelve: Transboundary Impacts), and taken into account the information currently supplied by the Applicant.

Action:

No further action required at this stage.

Date: 06 December 2018

Note: The SoS' duty under Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.

SECOND TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING	
Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:	Environmental Statement (April 2020) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (April 2020)
Date screening undertaken:	Re-screened on 06 July 2020 and reason: on receipt of application documents
<p>Transboundary re-screening undertaken by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS</p> <p>Following submission of the DCO application which included the Environmental Statement and the Applicant's HRA report, the Inspectorate has reconsidered the transboundary screening decision made on 06 December 2018.</p> <p>The Inspectorate notes that changes have been made to the Proposed Development the subject of the DCO application since the previous transboundary screening decision was made on 06 December 2018. However, the Inspectorate considers that the changes will not result in significant effects on the environment in another EEA State, and therefore the conclusion remains unchanged from that in the previous transboundary screening decision. These changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of the proposed once-through water cooling pipeline and intake/outfall; • Removal of the northern construction access routes on minor roads and via temporary haul roads; • Addition of southern construction access routes via Tilbury 2 and a new causeway in the Thames for delivery of materials for construction; • Separation of the Exchange of Common Land and habitat creation land; and • Refinement of the gas pipeline route (largely within the wider route corridor initially considered at scoping stage) <p>Under Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and on the basis of the current information available from the Applicant, there is no change to the previous conclusion, and the Inspectorate remains of the view that the Proposed Development is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment in another EEA State.</p> <p>In reaching this view the Inspectorate has applied the precautionary approach (as explained in its Advice Note twelve: Transboundary Impacts); and taken into account the information currently supplied by the Applicant.</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>No further action required at this stage.</p> <p>Date: 06 July 2020</p> <p>Note: The SoS' duty under Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.</p>	

Note:

The Inspectorate's screening of transboundary issues is based on the relevant considerations specified in the Annex to its Advice Note Twelve, available on our website at <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>