

Riverside Energy Park

Environmental Statement Chapter 1: Introduction

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1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Cory Environmental Holdings Limited (trading as Cory Riverside Energy Cory or “the Applicant”) is applying to the Secretary of State under the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) for powers to construct, operate and maintain an integrated Energy Park, to be known as Riverside Energy Park (REP). The principal elements of REP comprise complementary energy generating development and an associated Electrical Connection (together referred to as the ‘Proposed Development’). As the generating capacity of REP will be in excess of 50 MWe it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Sections 14 and 15 of the PA 2008 and therefore requires a Development Consent Order (DCO) to authorise its construction and operation.

1.1.2 The REP site would be located adjacent to an existing Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) operated by Cory (referred to as Riverside Resource Recovery Facility (RRRF)) situated at Norman Road in Belvedere within the London Borough of Bexley (LBB). The underground Electrical Connection would run from the REP site and terminate at the Littlebrook substation in Dartford. Plans showing the location of the REP site, the Application Boundary, the location of project elements and the illustrative layout are provided in **Figures 1.1-1.3**, of this Environmental Statement (ES). A glossary of terms, acronyms and definitions is provided in **Chapter 18**.

1.1.3 This ES is provided as part of the REP DCO Application. It sets out environmental information and the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). It allows consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development.

1.2 The Development Consent Order Process

1.2.1 Cory must submit a DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), who will first decide whether to accept the application. If accepted, PINS will examine the application in accordance with the relevant National Policy Statements (NPSs) which outline the need for energy infrastructure and the issues to be considered in applications. The relevant NPSs include: NPS EN-1 (Overarching Energy Policy), NPS EN-3 (Renewable Energy Supply from Waste) and NPS EN-5 (Electricity Networks Infrastructure).

1.2.2 Following the examination, PINS will make a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State (SOS) and, should the SOS approve the application, the DCO will be made authorising the construction, commissioning and operation (including maintenance) of REP.

1.3 The Applicant and Study Team

- 1.3.1 Cory is registered in England (Company Number 05360864) and is the Applicant for the Proposed Development. Cory's registered address is 2 Coldbath Square, London, EC1R 5HL, United Kingdom.
- 1.3.2 Cory is a leading recycling, energy recovery and resource management company, with an extensive river logistics network in London. Cory secured consent for, constructed and now operates the existing RRRF adjacent to the Proposed Development.
- 1.3.3 Cory is now progressing proposals for REP to maximise the use of its existing infrastructure and land holding and to further meet the needs for resource recovery and energy generation in the UK and in London.
- 1.3.4 Further information on REP is provided on the dedicated project website at <http://www.riversideenergypark.com>.
- 1.3.5 Preparation of the Application has been managed by Cory with support from the following consultancy team:
- Ardent Management Ltd – land referencing;
 - Camargue Group Ltd – community engagement services;
 - Fichtner Consulting Engineers Limited – engineering services;
 - Hitachi Zosen Inova AG – proposed technology provider and engineering, procurement and construction services;
 - Marico Marine - marine navigation specialists;
 - Peter Brett Associates LLP – environmental and planning services; and
 - Pinsent Masons LLP – legal services.

Note: Weedon Architects have provided architectural design services on behalf of Hitachi Zosen Inova AG.

1.4 EIA Development

- 1.4.1 The Proposed Development is considered to fall within Schedule 1¹ to the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017). Accordingly, an EIA has been undertaken pursuant to the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017,

¹ For EIA purposes the Proposed Development is considered to fall within paragraph 10 of Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017 (i.e. Waste disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment (as defined in Annex I to Directive 2008/98/EC under heading D9) of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 100 tonnes per day). It should be noted that, for the purposes of the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), the Proposed Development will be classified as a recovery operation, rather than a disposal operation.

which set out the requirements for undertaking an EIA and the required information for inclusion within an ES.

1.4.2 Schedule 4 of the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017 sets out the information to be included in the ES. **Table 4.1** in **Chapter 4** identifies where the information defined by Schedule 4 can be found within this ES.

1.4.3 Regulation 14 of the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017 requires that, to ensure completeness and quality of Environmental Statements, “...*the applicant must ensure that the environmental statement is prepared by competent experts*”. **Appendix A.2** is a statement outlining the relevant expertise and qualifications of the team which is undertaking the EIA and has contributed to this ES.

1.5 The Scope of the EIA

1.5.1 The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the ‘APFP Regulations’) require that a DCO application, where applicable, must be accompanied by an ES and a scoping opinion. A Scoping Opinion was obtained from PINS in January 2018 and is included as **Appendix A.1**.

1.5.2 All issues raised in the Scoping Opinion have been considered during the EIA process and are discussed in further detail in the technical chapters.

1.6 Preliminary Environmental Information

1.6.1 Under Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017, the Applicant is required to set out in its Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) how it intends to publicise and consult on preliminary environmental information relating to the Proposed Development. Regulation 12 defines preliminary environmental information as being the information referred to in Regulation 14(2) which has been compiled by the Applicant and is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the development (and of any associated development).

1.6.2 The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) was published in June 2018 and presented the environmental information collected together with the preliminary findings of the assessment of likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development at the time.

1.6.3 The feedback received from consultees during the consultation period on the PEIR has been used to influence the environmental assessments within the ES and scheme design, see Section 3 of **Chapters 6 to 14**.

1.7 Consultation

1.7.1 Under Section 42 (Duty to consult), Section 47 (Duty to consult local community) and Section 48 (Duty to publicise) of the PA 2008, and Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017, there is a duty placed on the Applicant to

consult relevant and prescribed organisations, local authorities, interested parties, local communities and any person notified to the Applicant by the SoS in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(c) of the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017.

1.7.2 A Consultation Report (**Document Reference 5.1**) has been prepared to accompany the DCO Application which discusses the entire consultation process, including consultation on the PEIR, detailing how regard has been had to all comments received, and how comments may have shaped and influenced the proposals for the Proposed Development to accompany the DCO Application.

1.8 Proposed Development

1.8.1 The Proposed Development comprises REP and the associated Electrical Connection. These are described in turn, together with the anticipated REP operations, below. **Chapter 3** provides further details of the Proposed Development.

REP

1.8.2 REP would be constructed on land immediately adjacent to Cory's existing RRRF, within the LBB and would complement the operation of the existing facility. It would comprise an integrated range of technologies including: waste energy recovery, anaerobic digestion, solar panels and battery storage. The main elements of REP would be as follows:

- **Energy Recovery Facility (ERF):** to provide thermal treatment of Commercial and Industrial (C&I) residual (non-recyclable) waste with the potential for treatment of (non-recyclable) Municipal Solid Waste (MSW);
- **Anaerobic Digestion facility:** to process food and green waste. Outputs from the Anaerobic Digestion facility would be transferred off-site for use in the agricultural sector as fertiliser or as an alternative, where appropriate, used as a fuel in the ERF to generate electricity;
- **Solar Photovoltaic Installation:** to generate electricity. Installed across a wide extent of the roof of the Main REP building;
- **Battery Storage:** to store and supply additional power to the local distribution network at times of peak electrical demand. This facility would be integrated into the Main REP building; and
- **On Site Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Infrastructure:** to provide an opportunity for local district heating for nearby residential developments and businesses. REP would be CHP Enabled with necessary on site infrastructure included within the REP site.

Electrical Connection

- 1.8.3 REP would be connected to the electricity distribution network via a new 132 kilovolt (kV) underground electricity cable connection.
- 1.8.4 In consultation with UK Power Networks (UKPN), Cory is considering Electrical Connection route options to connect to the existing National Grid Littlebrook substation located south east of the REP site, in Dartford. The route options are located within the LBB and Dartford Borough, and would run from a new substation proposed to be constructed within the REP site.
- 1.8.5 All Electrical Connection route options have been included within the Application Boundary, as shown on **Figure 1.2**. While a preferred Electrical Connection route option is identified within **Chapter 3**, assessments within this ES consider all identified Electrical Connection route options.

1.9 Structure of this Document

- 1.9.1 This document has been structured to allow the reader to gain an understanding of the Proposed Development, the purpose of this document and the regulatory framework in which it has been prepared, the environmental information, assessment methodologies and the findings of the EIA. The document is structured as follows:
- **Chapter 1** comprises an overview of the Proposed Development, an introduction to the consenting regime and a description of the Applicant;
 - **Chapter 2** provides a description of the environmental planning policy background and regulatory framework in which the document has been prepared;
 - **Chapter 3** provides a description of the REP site and surrounding area, and a description of REP including the Electrical Connection;
 - **Chapter 4** provides a description of the methodology employed in undertaking the EIA for the Proposed Development;
 - **Chapter 5** provides a description of reasonable alternatives which have been considered to date; and
 - **Chapters 6 to 14** provide a description of the findings of the EIA process for each environmental topic scoped into the assessment. The topics covered are:
 - Chapter 6 – Transport;
 - Chapter 7 – Air Quality;
 - Chapter 8 – Noise and Vibration;
 - Chapter 9 – Townscape and Visual Impact Assessment (TVIA);
 - Chapter 10 – Historic Environment;
 - Chapter 11 – Terrestrial Biodiversity;

- Chapter 12 – Hydrology, Flood Risk and Water Resources;
- Chapter 13 – Ground Conditions; and
- Chapter 14 – Socio-economics.

1.9.2 Each topic chapter includes:

- a brief introduction;
- an explanation of the relevant legislation, policy, guidance and standards for that topic;
- a summary of consultation responses from the Scoping Opinion and other relevant consultations and how these have been taken into account;
- a description of the topic specific reasonable worst case parameters used for assessment;
- a brief explanation of the assessment methodology and significance criteria used;
- a description of the baseline conditions and receptors;
- a summary of topic specific mitigation embedded in the Proposed Development;
- the findings of the assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development after incorporating embedded mitigation;
- the findings of the assessment of the cumulative effects of the Proposed Development;
- an explanation of what further mitigation may be appropriate in order to minimise significant adverse effects;
- the findings of the assessment of the residual significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development;
- a description of any monitoring requirements; and
- a description of any further work required and summary of residual effects.

1.9.3 **Chapters 15 to 17** provide an overview and summary of other issues/topics considered, a summary of the technical chapters and a schedule of mitigation and monitoring, addressing the following:

- Chapter 15 – Other Considerations;
- Chapter 16 – Summary of Findings and In-combination Effects; and
- Chapter 17 – Schedule of Mitigation and Monitoring.

1.9.4 Chapter 18 provides a Glossary of abbreviations and definitions.

1.9.5 Figures and appendices referred to within this ES are available in separate volumes (**Document Reference 6.2** and **6.3**).

1.9.6 A separate Non-Technical Summary (NTS) (**Document Reference 6.4**) which summarises the ES in non-technical language is also available.