



<b>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)</b>	
<b>Project name:</b>	Boston Alternative Energy Facility
<b>Address/Location:</b>	The Proposed Development is located south of Boston, east of the Riverside Industrial Estate and the River Witham/ The Haven forms the eastern boundary of the Proposed Development.
<b>Planning Inspectorate Ref:</b>	EN010095
<b>Date(s) screening undertaken:</b>	First screening – 25 September 2018 following the Applicant’s request for a scoping opinion. Second screening – 22 July 2021 following submission of the application documents.

<b>FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING</b>	
<b>Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:</b>	Boston Alternative Energy Facility (‘the Scoping Report’) May 2018
<b>Screening Criteria:</b>	<b>The Inspectorate’s Comments:</b>
<b>Characteristics of the Development</b>	<p>The Proposed Development comprises the construction of a renewable energy plant, proposing to deliver approximately 102 MWe (gross) and 80 MWe (net).</p> <p>The Proposed Development will comprise of a gasification facility, using a refuse derived fuel to generate energy. The Proposed Development also includes the following ancillary developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a lightweight aggregate manufacturing plant;</li> <li>• a new wharf on the River Witham;</li> <li>• a feedstock checking, processing and storage facility;</li> <li>• proposed new grid connection including a substation;</li> <li>• proposed overhead tower associated with the grid connection; and</li> <li>• proposed demolition of existing buildings.</li> </ul>

	<p>The Scoping Report has not stated the total size of the Proposed Development, or when construction is anticipated to commence.</p> <p>The operational life expectancy of the Proposed Development is at 25 years as stated within Scoping Report paragraph 2.2.2.</p> <p>The Scoping Report identifies the potential for the Proposed Development to produce pollution and nuisances from;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emissions of pollutants to air, soil and water;</li> <li>• noise and vibration; and</li> <li>• traffic.</li> </ul> <p>Waste will be generated during construction and operation of the Proposed Development.</p>
<p><b>Location of Development (including existing use) and Geographical area</b></p>	<p>The Proposed Development is located within Lincolnshire, south of the town of Boston, within the Riverside Industrial Estate and the River Witham/ The Haven forms the eastern boundary of the application site. The site location is illustrated on Figure 2.3 of the Scoping Report.</p> <p>The current land use within the application site is a mixture of disused industrial land and agricultural fields. Industrial land use surrounds the immediate vicinity of the application site; with agricultural land further west and south.</p> <p>Further north of the Proposed Development is the town of Boston and to the east is the River Witham/ The Haven.</p> <p>No information is provided in the Scoping Report regarding areas that are within the jurisdiction of another EEA State.</p> <p>The Scoping Report does not identify the nearest EEA state to the Proposed Development.</p>
<p><b>Environmental Importance</b></p>	<p>The Scoping Report has identified the following internationally designated sites within 10km of the Proposed Development;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Wash - Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation and a Ramsar site; and</li> <li>• The Wash and North Norfolk Coast – SAC.</li> </ul> <p>Paragraphs 6.9.7 and 6.9.8 of the Scoping Report identify 4 migratory fish species and state that breeding and foraging birds, including those associated with The Wash SPA and Ramsar site, may be adversely affected by the construction and operation of the Proposed Development.</p>
<p><b>Potential impacts and Carrier</b></p>	<p>The carrier for potential effects could be mobile species (birds) associated with internationally designated sites under the control of other EEA states; Or international shipping interests.</p> <p>The Proposed Development could potentially adversely affect bird populations associated with The Wash SPA due to:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emissions to air – dust and vehicle emissions during construction and emissions from operational activities;</li> <li>• Emissions to water – impacting quality and geomorphology - 3- of water sources (including ground water and surface water); and</li> <li>• Noise and vibrations emissions – from the construction of the wharf within the River Witham/ The Haven.</li> </ul> <p>The Proposed Development could potentially adversely affect international shipping activities during both construction and operation of the proposed wharf facility.</p> <p>The Scoping Report has not included an assessment of these impacts in relation to potential transboundary effects and has not indicated that the Proposed Development could result in transboundary effects.</p>
<b>Extent</b>	The effects identified in the Scoping Report have not been assessed as likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.
<b>Magnitude</b>	The effects identified in the Scoping Report have not been assessed as likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.
<b>Probability</b>	The effects identified in the Scoping Report have not been assessed as likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.
<b>Duration</b>	The effects identified in the Scoping Report have not been assessed as likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.
<b>Frequency</b>	The effects identified in the Scoping Report have not been assessed as likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.
<b>Reversibility</b>	The effects identified in the Scoping Report have not been assessed as likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.
<b>Cumulative impacts</b>	The effects identified in the Scoping Report have not been assessed as likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.
<p><b><u>Transboundary screening undertaken by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS</u></b></p> <p>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 <b>is not likely</b> to have a significant effect on the environment in an EEA State.</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.

**Action:**

No further action required at this stage.

**Date:** 18 October 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:**

Boston Alternative Energy Facility - Environmental Statement (March 2021)  
 Habitats Regulations Assessment (March 2021)  
 Outline Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Strategy (March 2021)

**Date screening undertaken:**

Re-screened on 22 July 2021 on receipt of application documents

**Transboundary re-screening undertaken by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS**

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 18 October 2018.

The Inspectorate has identified the following matters that differ from those considered at the time of the previous transboundary screening decision:

**Change in the description of the Proposed Development**

- Change in technology used at the facility from gasification to thermal treatment, resulting in three stacks, narrower than previously required for gasification technology;
- Two carbon capture units (previously one); and
- A Habitat Mitigation Area for enhancement works for the benefit of bird species, primarily redshank, approximately 170m south east of the Proposed Development site.

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 an 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.

No new EEA States have been identified as being likely to have significant effects on their environment.

**Date:** 01/09/2021

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

**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/>