

Date: 8 November 2021

Our Reference: EN010095

Please reply to:
Neil McBride
Planning

Dear Sir

Application by Boston Alternative Use Boston Projects for a Development Consent Order granting Development Consent for The Boston Alternative Energy Facility at Riverside Industrial Estate, Boston

The Examining Authority's written questions responses -

Please see below the answers to the written questions directed towards Lincolnshire County Council by the examining authority.

Q1.0.3 - 'LCC have queried the s42 consultation on the revised technology for the plant. Please detail the differences between the processes; gasification (the original proposal) and thermal treatment; and any mitigation proposed.'

Alternative Use Boston Projects undertook a statutory consultation pursuant to Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 at Phase 3 of the consultation as set out in the consultation report. At this stage a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) was submitted to help consultees understand the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment. Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) was invited to respond to the consultation which took place in summer 2019. The County Council provided a response in August 2019. Following this consultation period, several meetings were held jointly with the applicant, LCC and Boston Borough Council to bring to the applicant's attention concerns with the specific topic chapters contained in the PEIR. Following on from these meetings it was anticipated that updated topic chapters would be provided addressing the inadequacies/concerns which were raised in these meetings. All meetings and communication were with the understanding that the development would use gasification technology, not incineration.

The project was then put on pause until summer 2020 when a Phase 4 consultation was undertaken.

In advance of the Phase 4 consultation a further meeting was held with LCC and Boston Borough Council when the developer outlined several changes to the scheme including a change in technology from the original proposed gasification plant to an Energy from Waste facility. The developer contended that the changes were not significant in nature and therefore undertook a 'light touch' consultation at Phase 4.

The original gasification technology was favourable to the County Council given its recycling opportunities and was perceived to be higher up the waste hierarchy than just waste incineration. The change to 'energy from waste' technology was disappointing as incineration is lower down the waste hierarchy. The Gasification proposal would have allowed material suitable for recycling to be removed from the feedstock and recycled contributing to improving the County's recycling rates. The County Council felt that this change in technology is the core of the project and therefore should have been given a

further round of statutory consultation with an updated PEIR to reflect this significant change to the energy recovery process.

Detailed discussions had taken place regarding the possibility of transferring the residual waste collected at the Council's adjoining waste transfer station which would have enabled recycled materials to be removed prior to gasification.

Lincolnshire County Council therefore submit that the approach to consultation undertaken at Phase 4 was not adequate given the significance of the change in technology and impact on the proposed feedstock which the original PEIR had been based on. LCC are of the view that a further statutory consultation with an updated PEIR should have taken place at Phase 4 to allow interested parties to understand the consequences of the changes to the technology from both an environment and operational perspective.

Q9.0.2 – 'The South-East Lincolnshire Local Plan states that development must "not obstruct a public view of St Botolph's church, Boston or challenge the visual dominance of the church". Are the stack heights proposed acceptable to LCC.'

LCC are not greatly concerned from a heritage setting perspective regarding the proposed stack height. It is noted, and accepted, that there will be some obstruction from some view points to the view of St Botolph's Church. However, it is felt that the applicant has given adequate weight and mitigation to this and given the industrial landscape including electricity pylons the stack heights are acceptable .

The County Council do feel that this question should also be directed to Boston Borough Council to provide a response.

Yours sincerely
Neil McBride
Planning Manager
Yours sincerely



Planning Manager