



Meeting note

File reference	N/A
Status	Final
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Date	21 March 2016
Meeting with	Indigo Power
Venue	Temple Quay House
Attendees	Applicant Alison Hastings (Indigo Power) Tim Norman (NIRAS) Madeline Hodge (NIRAS) Planning Inspectorate Sheila Twidle (Head of Environmental Services) Dave Price (EIA and Land Rights Manager) Kathryn Dunne (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Stephanie Newman (Case Manager)
Meeting objectives	Introduction to Indigo Power and Gas2Wires project
Circulation	All attendees.

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Introduction

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) outlined its openness policy and ensured those present understood that any issues discussed and advice given would be recorded and placed on the Planning Inspectorate's website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008). Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the applicant (or others) can rely.

Indigo Power provided an overview and introduction to the company and the Gas2Wire project concept.

The key components of the project are:

- Construction of an Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) of approximately 200 - 240MW capacity located offshore, in the Southern part of the North Sea;
- Energy produced would be exported through existing offshore wind farm transmission infrastructure;
- Gas would be sourced directly from an operating gas field, via a bridge link to an existing gas production platform;

- Generation would be peaking, using the existing transmission lines when the wind farm is not operating at full capacity;
- Although the technology is not new, the concept is novel and this project would be a pilot.

The Applicant indicated that they plan to submit the application to the Inspectorate towards the latter half of 2018.

Consenting and permitting

The Applicant considered that the project is classed as an 'offshore generating station', and as it would exceed 100MW capacity it constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. The project would be sited in UK waters, outside of the UK territorial sea but within the Renewable Energy Zone. The Inspectorate noted that the proposed project is not a renewable energy project, although it would be sited in the Renewable Energy Zone, it therefore recommends the applicant considers how this project may fall within section 15 of the PA 2008 (specifically regarding section 15(4)(b)), and also whether the National Policy Statements apply.

The Applicant suggested that a Pipeline Works Authorisation may be required for the pipeline, and these are obtained from the Oil and Gas Authority. They also explained that it was unclear whether the Offshore Combustion Installation (Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations 2013 governing air and water pollution for oil and gas installations would be pertinent to an offshore generator exporting power to the grid as is proposed. The Applicant enquired over which consents, including a Pipeline Works Authorisation, could be wrapped into the development consent process. Or, alternatively, if this is not possible, whether the application for a Pipeline Works Authorisation should twin-track the application for development consent. The Inspectorate agreed to provide the Applicant with high-level advice regarding whether the Pipeline Authorisation Works could be wrapped up in the development consent process. The Applicant advised that at this stage of the project it was unable to produce a schedule of required consents as this would depend on more ironing out more detailed characteristics of the scheme.

The Applicant argued that they expect the project to be relatively light touch from an environmental perspective, anticipating the main issues to be navigation, fisheries, nature conservation and combustion emissions. The Inspectorate advised that transboundary issues could be significant, and highlighted the importance of contacting the relevant authorities.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

- The Inspectorate offered to facilitate an Evidence Plan process.
- The Inspectorate would provide high-level advice regarding consenting regimes.