



Meeting note

File reference	N/A
Status	Final
Author	Siân Evans
Date	15 March 2017
Meeting with	Indigo Power
Venue	Temple Quay House
Attendees	Chris White – Planning Inspectorate Dave Price – Planning Inspectorate Tracey Williams – Planning Inspectorate (part attendance) Siân Evans – Planning Inspectorate Alison Hastings – Indigo Power Dermot Grimson – Indigo Power Dr Tim Norman - Niras
Meeting objectives	Update in relation to the TiGRE Project1 (Transition to Gas and Renewable Energy)
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The developer was aware of the Planning Inspectorate's (the Inspectorate) openness policy and that any advice given would be recorded and placed on the Inspectorate's website under section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). Any advice given does not constitute legal advice upon which the applicant (or others) can rely.

Indigo Power provided an overview of their proposal which is to construct an Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) generator on existing offshore gas production infrastructure. This will be located close to an offshore wind farm and utilise their existing transmission infrastructure to transport the electricity generated to shore.

Indigo Power advised that as well as consent under PA2008 they will require other consents, including a Pipeline Works Authorisation consent from the Oil and Gas Authority. The timing of this was discussed and the Inspectorate advised that to recommend consent the Examining Authority will need comfort that the licence will be granted. It is advisable to get this before submission of the application to the Inspectorate, or as soon after as possible.

Indigo Power offered to hold a meeting with all consenting authorities and the Inspectorate stated that it may be helpful to attend this so all parties could understand what they will be responsible for.

As there will be no onshore works for this proposal the host authority will be the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). The Inspectorate advised that Indigo Power should discuss with them how they will engage in the process and to get an early Statement of Common Ground in place. The Applicant confirmed that they are scheduled to meet the MMO on 4 April 2017 to discuss engagement and the Statement of Common Ground.

Indigo Power advised that a minor change to the offshore substation may be required but this is unlikely to form part of the Development Consent Order (DCO).

The Inspectorate advised that the application documentation needs to be very clear as to what is being applied for. Consideration needs to be given as to whether decommissioning of the gas facility to accommodate the OCGT should be included in the DCO and if so, how it is described.

Indigo Power consider that there are likely to be few environmental effects. However as the site is within a Special Area of Conservation the Inspectorate advised that rather than seeking a screening opinion time should be spent on scoping out matters for a Scoping Opinion. The description of the development in any scoping request should be as detailed as possible.

Indigo Power advised that they are likely to submit their scoping report to the Inspectorate towards the end of June 2017 leading to submission of the application in Quarter 1 of 2018. The Inspectorate reminded Indigo Power that the new EIA Regulations will be in place at that time. The Inspectorate advised Indigo Power that before the scoping report is submitted might be a good time to hold a further meeting with the Inspectorate.

Indigo Power advised that there will not be any compulsory acquisition in the application. All of the development for which development consent is required is on the sea bed outside Territorial Waters, over which the Crown Estate has leasing rights. Indigo Power stated that these rights only extend to renewable energy and gas/CO₂ storage projects and that the TiGRE Project¹ would not, therefore, require a lease.

When preparing their application, the Inspectorate advised Indigo Power to look through the National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1) and, if applicable, the relevant energy specific NPS to ensure the application meets the policy criteria.

The Inspectorate advised that draft documents, including the DCO, can be reviewed before submission and advised these should be submitted 2 to 3 months before the application is made. Prior notice of submission of draft documents should be given and the turnaround for the Inspectorate to look at these is 3 to 4 weeks.

Indigo Power asked whether the application could be dealt with solely through the written process. The Inspectorate explained that the PA2008 is primarily a written procedure. Open Floor and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings are only held when requested and Issue Specific Hearings will only be held if an Examining Authority needs to explore issues further.