



Meeting note

Project name	Allington Energy from Waste Facility
File reference	EN010108
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	27 January 2020
Meeting with	Allington EfW Project
Venue	Temple Quay House, Bristol
Meeting objectives	Project meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Project update

The Applicant has conducted its non-statutory consultation of the Project. The main issues raised were Air Quality (from traffic), Traffic and Visual Impact. As a direct result of the consultation, the proposed development will have one stack instead of two. The Applicant confirmed that the old stack will be decommissioned as part of the construction and commissioning process. To minimise the impact on the local road network, the project's weighbridges have been relocated further inside the site to mitigate traffic impact by providing on site queuing of vehicles at busy periods.

The Project will have its own control room but will be operated under normal conditions from the existing generating station control room.

The Applicant intends to apply for the modified Environmental Permit in parallel with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. It was confirmed that the Applicant is seeking to agree the principles of the Stack Height Assessment and new emissions levels with the Environment Agency before the application is submitted. The Applicant was advised to include these within any Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with the Environment Agency.

The status of the Nature Conservation Area (NCA) within the redline boundary is likely to be controlled by a DCO obligation. There is currently no access to the NCA but the Applicant is proposing in consultation with the local community to provide access and enhanced benefits from the site in parallel with any off site mitigation land at one of the Applicant's landholdings in close proximity subject to agreement of baselines and schemes being discussed and agreed with Kent County Council.

The Applicant considered that the issue of whether the project was a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under PA2008 had been clarified, as in their opinion, the Proposed Development will be fully integrated with the existing Energy from Waste facility (EfW) (notably the sharing of key infrastructure such as the joint stack and control room, in addition to shared site infrastructure discussed at the previous meeting) and should therefore be considered as an extension.

The potential to export heat has been assessed. The Applicant confirmed that the project would be a CHP ready plant. It was confirmed that Compulsory Acquisition powers for a heat network were unlikely to be included in the DCO.

The Applicant intend to submit its grid connection application to National Grid in February 2020. It was confirmed that the project will connect to the same substation as the existing EfW generating station.

Consultation

The Applicant intends to start its statutory s42/47 consultation in late April/early May 2020 subject to the PEIR completion to support the process and it will run for approximately six weeks. The Statement of Community Consultation will be submitted to the local authorities for formal consultation in February 2020. The Applicant confirmed that it intended to consult with the Kent County Council (KCC) traveller liaison officer in regards of how to consult with hard to reach groups. The Applicant was advised to avoid any other consultation during this time period as this could negatively impact the quality of the responses.

Draft documents review

It was considered likely that the Applicant would submit draft documents for review. The Applicant was informed that the Inspectorate would usually review the DCO, Explanatory Memorandum and plans and that the review usually takes 6-8 weeks to conduct.

The Household Waste Recycling Centre

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it had submitted a planning application for a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) to KCC within the redline boundary. The Applicant was advised to be clear in all its documentation that the HWRC is not part of the DCO application and to include it as a worst case scenario in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). It was further clarified that the Applicant will include the HWRC in its DCO cumulative impact assessment.

Submission date

Anticipated submission date: Q3/Q4 2020.

Any Other Business

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that Tonbridge and Malling and Maidstone Borough Councils were unlikely to submit a joint SoCG but would share resources and have joint meetings.

There was a discussion about the Scoping Opinion and a number of matters were clarified, such as the approach to human health which would be addressed in topic

specific chapters. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that if they are to alter the scope of the environmental assessments in the ES, the Applicant should consult with statutory bodies and provide robust evidence within the ES justifying the change in the scope of the environmental assessments.

The Applicant confirmed it had completed its environmental surveys.

The Applicant updated the Inspectorate on the Local Plan Policy review.

As there are existing planning conditions over the site the Applicant was advised to review the Drax Repower and Kemsley Paper Mill Orders to see how articles related to existing planning conditions were drafted in those DCOs.

It was confirmed that due to the 4th line being merchant development, no new contracts securing waste would be required to be in place prior to delivery.