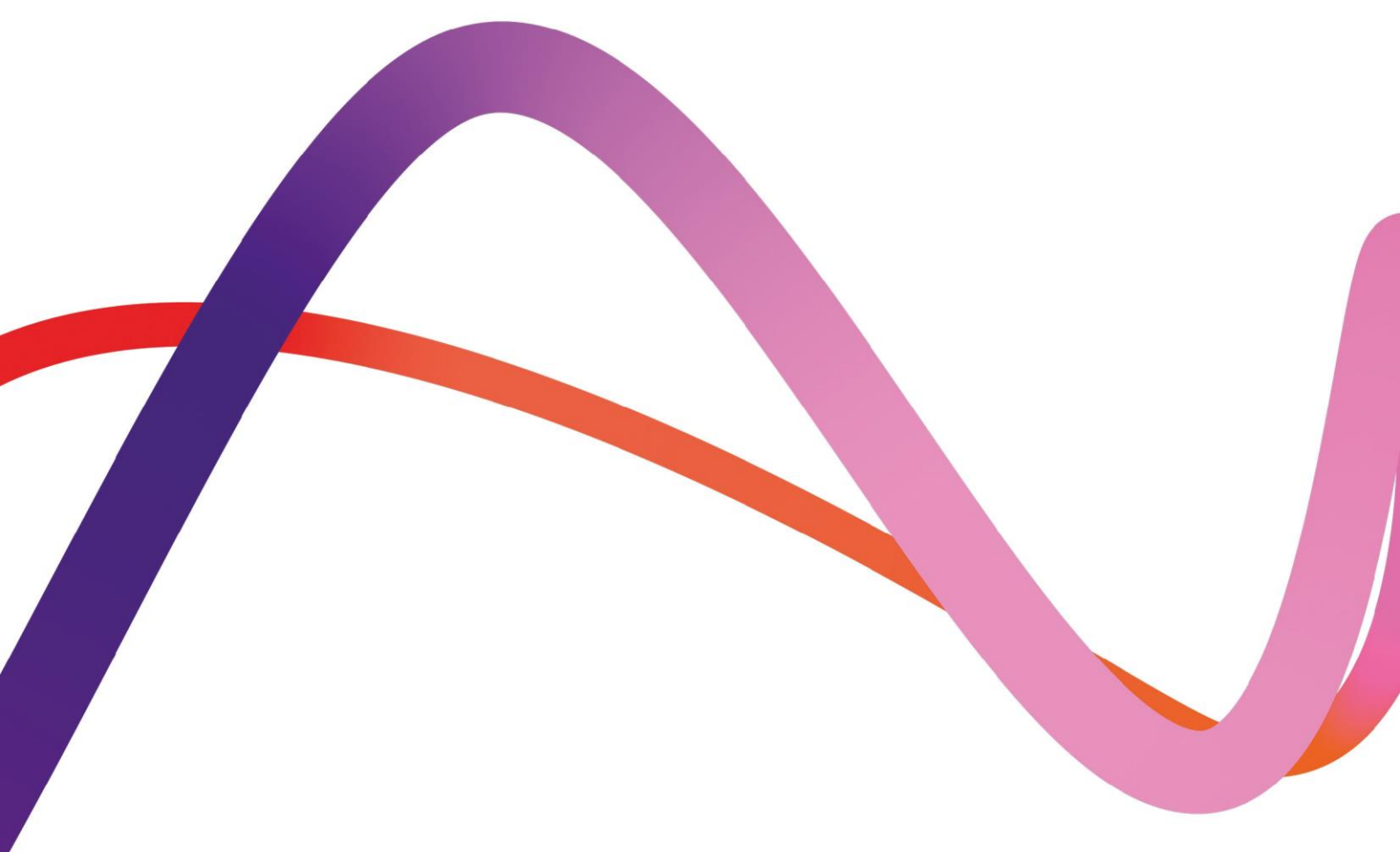


Medworth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility



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Electricity Grid Connection Statement

Regulation reference: The Infrastructure
Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms
and Procedure) Regulations 2009
Regulation 5(2)(p)/6(1)(a)(i))

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Executive Summary

APFP Regulation 6 requires an applicant to confirm who will be responsible for designing and building a grid connection. This report confirms that it is the Applicant who will be responsible for designing and building the Grid Connection which forms part of the Proposed Development. It is the Applicant's intention to appoint Freedom Group (or another accredited Independent Connections Provider (ICP)) to undertake the detailed design for the contestable works and to build the Grid Connection. Freedom Group is a fully accredited ICP and has been supporting the Applicant throughout the evolution of the Proposed Development.

The Applicant has accepted a connection offer from UK Power Networks (UKPN) which demonstrates that a Grid Connection to the Walsoken DNO Substation is technically and financially viable.

The Applicant is in discussion with owners of the land over which the Grid Connection would be routed. In the event that voluntary agreements cannot be reached, the DCO Application includes a request for street works powers, compulsory acquisition powers and temporary use powers to enable the Grid Connection to be delivered without impediment.



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1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report

1.1.1 The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations (2009) require at Regulation 6(1)(a)(i) that an applicant proposing the construction or extension of an onshore generating station provide a statement of who will be responsible for designing and building the connection to the electricity grid.

1.1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide this statement. This report explains who is responsible for the Grid Connection, who has designed the Grid Connection which forms part of the Applicant's Proposed Development, who will progress the compliant design post consent and who will build the connection.

1.1.3 Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1) paragraph 4.9.1 states that:

In the market system, it is for the applicant to ensure that there will be necessary infrastructure and capacity within an existing or planned transmission or distribution network to accommodate the electricity generated. The applicant will liaise with National Grid who own and manage the transmission network in England and Wales or the relevant regional Distribution Network Operator (DNO) to secure a grid connection. It may be the case that the applicant has not received or accepted a formal offer of a grid connection from the relevant network operator at the time of the application, although it is likely to have applied for one and discussed it with them. This is a commercial risk the applicant may wish to take for a variety of reasons, although the IPC will want to be satisfied that there is no obvious reason why a grid connection would not be possible.

1.1.4 Whilst paragraph 4.9.2 states:

The Government ... envisages that wherever possible, applications for new generating stations and related infrastructure should be contained in a single application to the IPC or in separate applications submitted in tandem which have been prepared in an integrated way.

1.1.5 This report provides the status of the Grid Connection offer and provides confirmation that the Grid Connection forms part of the Proposed Development and as such, a single application for which consent is sought.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 Medworth CHP Ltd (the 'Applicant') intends to make an application to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for an Energy from Waste (EfW) combined heat and power (CHP) facility (the 'Proposed Development') on the industrial estate, Algores Way, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

1.2.2 The Proposed Development will recover useful energy in the form of electricity and steam from 625,000 tonnes of non-recyclable (residual), non-hazardous Municipal



and Commercial and Industrial waste each year. Generating over 50 megawatts, the electricity will be exported to the grid. The EfW CHP Facility will also have the capability to export steam and electricity to users on the surrounding industrial estate.

1.2.3 The Proposed Development is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Part 3 Section 14 of the Planning Act 2008 (hereafter referred to as the '2008 Act') by virtue of the fact that the generating station is located in England and has a generating capacity of over 50 megawatts (see section 15(2) of the 2008 Act). It, therefore, requires an application to be submitted for a DCO.

1.2.4 Wood Group UK Limited (Wood) has been commissioned by Medworth CHP Limited, (the 'Applicant'), to provide consenting and environmental consultancy support services for the Proposed Development.

1.3 Development Proposal

1.3.1 The Proposed Development comprises the following key elements:

- The EfW CHP Facility Site;
- CHP Connection;
- Temporary Construction Compound (TCC);
- Access Improvements;
- Water Connections; and
- Grid Connection (underground cable and Walsoken Substation).

1.3.2 A summary description of each Proposed Development element is provided below. A more detailed description is provided in **Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development (Volume 6.3)** of the ES. A list of terms and abbreviations can be found in **Chapter 1 Introduction, Appendix 1F Terms and Abbreviations (Volume 6.4)**.

- EfW CHP Facility Site: A trapezoidal site of approximately 350m x 150m, orientated in a north-easterly direction to the north of New Bridge Lane. The main buildings of the EfW CHP Facility would be located in the area to the north of the Hundred of Wisbech Internal Drainage Board (HWIDB) drain bisecting the site and would house many development elements including the tipping hall, boiler house, control room, waste bunker which is constructed to a maximum depth 14m below finished floor levels (FFL) and diesel tanks. The gatehouse, weighbridges, electrical switching compound and laydown maintenance area would be located in the southern section of the site.
- CHP Connection: The EfW CHP Facility would be designed to allow the export of steam and electricity from the facility to surrounding business users via dedicated pipelines and private wire cables. The pipeline and cables would be located on a raised, steel structure.



- TCC: the temporary construction compound would be used to support the construction of the EfW CHP Facility, the CHP Connection, and the Access Improvements. The compound would be in place for the duration of construction.
- Access Improvements: includes access improvements on New Bridge Lane (road widening and site access) and Algores Way (relocation of site access 20m to the south).
- Water Connections: A new water main connecting the EfW CHP Facility into the local network will run underground from the EfW CHP Facility Site along New Bridge Lane before crossing underneath the A47 (open cut trenching or HDD) to join an existing Anglian Water main. An additional foul sewer connection is required to an existing pumping station operated by Anglian Water located to the northeast of the Algores Way site entrance and into the EfW CHP Facility Site.
- Grid Connection: This comprises a 132kV electrical connection using underground cable. The Grid Connection route begins at a substation in the south of the EfW CHP Facility Site and runs underneath New Bridge Lane, before heading north within the verge of the A47 to the Walsoken Substation on Broadend Road, approximately 3.15km north-east. From this point the cable would be connected underground to the Walsoken DNO Substation.

The Grid Connection

- 1.3.3 The Grid Connection is a component of the Proposed Development. The connection has been designed to take the electricity generated by the EfW CHP Facility to an existing UKPN substation at Walsoken (the Walsoken DNO Substation) via a new substation, the Walsoken Substation which will include equipment owned and operated by UKPN and by the Applicant. The substations would be located next to each other with the Walsoken substation on land in the ownership of UKPN.
- 1.3.4 The Grid Connection will consist of a trefoil formation 132kV cable placed underground and within the highway or highway verge from the point at which it would leave the EfW CHP Facility Site to the Walsoken Substation. The Applicant will be responsible for designing and building the Grid Connection. The design of the Grid Connection has been undertaken by Freedom Group, an accredited Independent Connection Provider (ICP). The design has been agreed with UKPN in its role as the District Network Operator (DNO) for the area within which the Proposed Development is located.
- 1.3.5 A more detailed description of the Grid Connection can be found in ES **Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development (Volume 6.2)**.

Contestable Works

- 1.3.6 Contestable works are works which may be undertaken by a suitably accredited ICP and can include for the installation of cables, substations and other plant associated with a new connection. The Grid Connection from the point at which it is located within the EfW CHP Facility Site to the new Walsoken Substation is agreed with UKPN as forming contestable works.



1.4 The Applicant's nominated designer and builder

1.4.1 The Applicant appointed Freedom Group in May 2020 to design the Grid Connection. Freedom Group has provided technical advice throughout the evolution of the Proposed Development and has been in position to support the Applicant in its discussions with UKPN. Freedom Group as an ICP is accredited via the National Electrical Registration Scheme (NERS) with full accreditation up to 132kV. As an ICP Freedom Group is able to carry out the following services as contestable works which include for all the works necessary to undertake the detailed design and ultimately construction of the Grid Connection:

- Design Works for a new connection;
- Procure materials and plant for the connection works;
- Land rights negotiations with third party landowners (if required);
- Trench excavation and duct installation – on site;
- Trench excavation and duct installation – on public highway;
- Construction of substation buildings and other civil works – on site;
- Cable Installation;
- Substation plant installation and commissioning;
- Excavation for jointing bay – on site;
- Excavation for jointing bay – public highway;
- Testing of assets installed by ICP; and
- Recording of installed assets.

1.4.2 The Applicant intends to retain Freedom Group to provide the compliant design for contestable works and to build the Grid Connection.

1.5 Acceptance of a connection offer

1.5.1 UKPN provided a connection offer to the Applicant on 04 March 2021 which was accepted on 27 May 2021¹. The offer identified a point of connection (PoC) at UKPN's Walsoken DNO Substation for the EfW CHP Facility.

1.5.2 The offer acceptance specified that UKPN would carry out the non-contestable works only. The offer defined the contestable works as a 132kV cable located within the carriageway, 132kV customer generation substation, preliminaries, site set-up and maintenance. It confirmed an import capacity of 26MVA and export capacity of 62MW. The contestable works would comprise a new 132kV disconnector, sealing end and cable within the existing Walsoken Substation.

¹ On 27 May 2021, the Applicant also accepted a connection offer to connect the Proposed Development to UKPN's Walpole Substation. The Applicant consulted on both options and following the completion of the statutory consultation, the Applicant confirmed to UKPN that it would no longer proceed with the Walpole connection.



- 1.5.3 In the context of a connection offer and in accordance with NPS EN-1 paragraph 4.9.1, the Applicant is therefore able to demonstrate that there is no reason why the Grid Connection forming part of the Proposed Development would not be deliverable.

1.6 Land Rights

- 1.6.1 **Section 1.3** explains that the Grid Connection starts at the EfW CHP Facility Site and is routed within highway land until it reaches land controlled by UKPN.
- 1.6.2 Discussions have taken place with the relevant highway authorities. It is anticipated that voluntary agreements will be in place to enable the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Grid Connection. The **draft DCO (Volume 3.1)** includes street works powers (equivalent to those under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991) to facilitate the Grid Connection in the public highway.
- 1.6.3 The Applicant is in discussions with UKPN in respect of a voluntary agreement to allow for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Applicant's Walsoken Substation. The Applicant is confident that a voluntary agreement will be entered into.
- 1.6.4 The substation located within the EfW CHP Facility Site, see **ID21, Figure 3.6 Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development (Volume 6.2)**, is located on land currently owned by Fenland District Council. To date, Fenland District Council has declined to engage with the Applicant. At a Council Meeting on 8 September 2020, Fenland District Council adopted a motion which included a moratorium on all sales of its land in proximity to the Proposed Development. The Applicant remains willing to discuss a voluntary agreement with Fenland District Council for the acquisition of this land.
- 1.6.5 In the event that voluntary agreements cannot be reached, the DCO Application includes a request for compulsory acquisition and temporary use powers to enable the Grid Connection to be delivered without impediment.

1.7 Conclusion

- 1.7.1 The APFP Regulation 6 requires that an applicant confirm who will be responsible for designing and building the grid connection. The Applicant confirms that it will be responsible for designing and building the Grid Connection which forms part of the Proposed Development. It is the Applicant's intention to appoint Freedom Group (or another accredited ICP) to undertake the detailed design for the contestable works and to build the Grid Connection.
- 1.7.2 The Applicant has accepted a connection offer from UKPN which demonstrates that a Grid Connection to the Walsoken DNO Substation is technically and financially viable.
- 1.7.3 The Applicant has been in discussion with the owners of the land over which the Grid Connection would be routed and is confident that, in the case of the highway authorities and UKPN, voluntary agreements can be reached. In the event that voluntary agreements cannot be reached, the DCO Application includes a request



for street works powers, compulsory acquisition and temporary use powers to enable the Grid Connection to be delivered without impediment.

