



Meeting note

Project name	Medworth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility
File reference	EN010110
Status	FINAL
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	18 October 2019
Meeting with	MVV Environment Ltd / Wood plc
Venue	Temple Quay House
Meeting objectives	Project Inception meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The Planning Inspectorate (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 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which Developers (or others) could rely.

Background to the Project and Work Undertaken to Date

The Developer presented information on the proposed project, which is an energy from waste (EfW) power station near Wisbech. It is proposed that it would be capable of handling approximately 523,500 (nominal) tonnes of residual (non-recyclable) waste per annum at 10.9 megajoules per kilogram (MJ/kg) (approximately 625,000 per annum at 9.8MJ/kg). It is intended that this facility would be able to generate up to 53 Megawatts electrical (MWe) net (58 MWe gross) and 2x125 metric tonnes per hour (Mg/h) of steam (heat) energy (not confirmed).

The building, including the boiler house is likely to be no taller than 50m. The chimney is planned to be no taller than 95m, subject to the outcome of the air quality assessment.

It is proposed that a part of the electricity generated could be utilised by local industrial customers, with the remainder sold to the National Grid.

There are currently two proposed options for connection to the electricity grid, one 132kv line at the Walpole substation and one joining the National Grid 400kv line to the east of Walsoken. It is not yet clear if the electrical connection will form part of the Development Consent Order.

The steam created as part of the electrical generation process can be utilised by industry. This aspect makes the project a combined heat and power (CHP) facility. It is proposed to sell this steam to a number of companies to utilise in their manufacturing processes. The condensate that remains will be returned to the facility for reuse in the power generation cycle.

This being the case, the need for potable water is reduced. The final amount of potable water required will depend on amount of steam that needs to be supplied to customers. Rain (grey) water will be used to quench the ash that remains after the combustions process.

Compulsory Acquisition

The Developer stated that they had optioned the main site for purchase from the current owners. The site is currently used for aggregate storage and has a waste transfer station. Compulsory acquisition may be required to obtain land outside of this main site to deliver the development.

Scoping

The Applicant advised that they intend to submit their scoping report at the end of November. The Inspectorate pointed out that a request to scope at this time of year will result in statutory deadlines that overlap with the Christmas leave period. The Applicant was advised that it would be preferable for the Applicant to avoid this time as the timeframe for the consultation bodies to respond may well be affected.

The Applicant agreed to consider the advice and would make a decision on when to request the Scoping Opinion, taking into account relevant statutory periods. The Inspectorate advised that, regardless of the decision, a minimum of two weeks' notice and a GIS shapefile is required ahead of submitting a scoping request.

The Inspectorate asked questions regarding the detail of the proposed development and commitment to certain design options discussed. The Applicant explained that there were still details to be finalised and that the scoping report would comprise certain options that need to be confirmed as the proposal develops. The Inspectorate queried whether the scoping request would be premature given the current stage of development.

Anticipated Submission Date

The developer is currently intending to submit an application for development consent in Q4 2020.