



Meeting note

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| Project name | Medworth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility |
| File reference | EN010110 |
| Status | Final |
| Author | The Planning Inspectorate |
| Date | 15 January 2021 |
| Meeting with | MVV Environment Ltd / Wood plc |
| Venue | Microsoft Teams Meeting |
| Meeting objectives | Project Update |
| 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 applicants (or others) could rely.

Project Programme Update

The Applicant advised it conducted phase two of its non-statutory consultation between 18 September and 19 October 2020. The second phase of non-statutory consultation was added into the programme because of Covid-19 restrictions faced in the first phase of consultation in March 2020. The Applicant is currently assessing when it would be best to start baseline surveys.

The Applicant indicated that they plan to complete Ecology surveys between March and September 2021. The Applicant confirmed that a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) will be produced to support the statutory consultation which is planned to take place in June to early/mid July 2021. A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) is being prepared. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to build flexibility into their SoCC to allow for the possibility of any changes to current restrictions which may impact their holding of virtual and physical consultation events and / or processes.

The Applicant confirmed it intends to submit draft documents to the Inspectorate for review prior to the DCO submission which is anticipated to be Q4 2021.

Non-Statutory Consultation

The Applicant gave a summary of Phase 2 of the non-statutory consultation. The Applicant stated whilst one of the public exhibitions was cancelled due to Covid-19, it held seven public exhibitions with around 85 attendees across all of the venues and the

public exhibition material was replicated and made available online with hard copies being made available in a number of locations.

Feedback from Phase 2 Non-Statutory consultation

The Applicant received feedback from consultees on non-statutory consultation via a feedback form. The form included questions relating to design, community, environment and other. This was available both online and as a hard copy.

Design - Responses from Anglian Water expressed concerns regarding the impact of the development on access and surface water. The Applicant confirmed it is in the process of discussing Protective Provisions. The Applicant confirmed that the general concern from the public was in relation to the size and scale of the project and the Applicant advised that a 'Residential Amenity Assessment' will be undertaken.

The Applicant also stated that the height of the chimney also serves as a point of contention amongst the community. The Applicant acknowledged that it intends to review this but any design adjustments may be limited by the technical capacity of the chimney to address emissions to air. The Inspectorate encouraged the Applicant to draw upon other Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities when considering architecture and design.

The Applicant stated it has decided to safeguard land for railway sidings within the project design in the event that the railway becomes active in the future.

Environment The Applicant advised there were general comments about pollution impacting agricultural land and impacts on air quality and human health. The Applicant confirmed this will be addressed by the environmental assessments. The feedback also included concerns over traffic and how the scheme relates to other developments in the area. The Applicant confirmed it is in discussion with the relevant highways authorities to ensure a holistic approach is taken.

Community - The Applicant said it is currently looking to work with local colleges and schools to increase engagement from young people and promote skills development. The Applicant stated that the Wisbech Against Incineration Protest Group have been particularly active and it confirmed it is endeavouring to continue productive engagement with them.

The Applicant advised it intends to submit a copy of their summarised feedback report on the non-statutory consultation to the Inspectorate. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to review their non-statutory consultation approach so it can feed into its approach for statutory consultation.

S53 applications

The Applicant confirmed that surveys need to be undertaken as part of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and the Environmental Statement. It intends to complete all ecology surveys between March and September 2021.

The Applicant confirmed that licenses are in place for the majority of landowners. However, since August 2020, endeavours have been made to acquire voluntary access to land. The Applicant is issuing final notices to landowners by the end of January, requesting access to land.

The Applicant advised it intends to submit Section 53 applications to the Inspectorate by the beginning of February 2021. The Inspectorate advised that, in line with [Advice Note 5](#), it can take a minimum of 3 months to authorise Section 53 requests. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to submit the Section 53 applications in priority order. The Applicant confirmed that the rights of entry to land are to facilitate the completion of non-intrusive ecological surveys.

Engagement

The Applicant stated that they have held technical meetings with key statutory parties on a range of technical topics including landscape and visual, air quality, noise, transport and health. The Applicant advised it carried out a technical review and made a decision to remove one of the grid connections it had originally planned. The 400kv route was ruled out in favour of the 132kv connection to Walpole substation. The Applicant has produced a Grid Connection Corridor Options Report which was published in both phases of the non-statutory consultation to allow for feedback on this revised grid connection.

The Applicant advised engagement with the relevant local authorities has continued with Cambridgeshire County Council, Norfolk County Council, Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council and Fenland District Council. However, it expressed concern over engagement with some key stakeholders and asked the Inspectorate for advice on how best to proceed. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to continue with its current methods of engagement and to be mindful of any resource constraints following Covid-19 which may impact their consultees ability to engage. The Applicant was advised to ensure there is a clear audit of all attempts of engagement as this will ultimately form part of its consultation report. Should the Applicant continue to have difficulties, the Inspectorate advised of the potential to host a joint meeting to help encourage engagement.

Updates to the Energy National Policy Statement (NPS)

The Applicant asked what would be expected should the NPS be amended during submission or examination of the application. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that any matter that the Secretary of State thinks is important and relevant to its decision will be taken into account, including where a NPS is under review and therefore this could include a draft NPS, if one exists. The Inspectorate agreed to provide examples of other NSIPs where a NPS has been amended/brought into force during examination.

AOB

The Applicant confirmed that Medworth CHP Limited, is the new name for the 'Applicant' going forward. The 'Developer' will remain as MVV Environment Ltd. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to ensure this is clearly communicated across the project

documentation so not to cause any confusion. The Inspectorate also requested this be confirmed in writing so that the project webpage can be updated.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- Applicant to confirm in writing the new company name
Applicant to provide the Inspectorate with a copy of the non-statutory consultation feedback report.