



Meeting note

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| Project name | The Keadby 3 Low-Carbon Gas Power Station Project |
| File reference | EN010114 |
| Status | Final |
| Author | The Planning Inspectorate |
| Date | 9 March 2020 |
| Meeting with | SSE |
| Venue | Temple Quay House, Bristol |
| Meeting objectives | 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 applicants (or others) could rely. The Inspectorate explained that the publication of the meeting note could be delayed up to six months (if requested by the Applicant for commercial reasons), or until a formal scoping request had been submitted.

Introduction to the project

The Applicant provided an overview of the proposed project which is located in North Lincolnshire (Keadby 3). The Applicant explained the rationale behind the proposal, recognising that both the market and the approach to addressing climate change have developed since previous gas power station applications. The Applicant acknowledged that renewables represent a big part of the solution to achieving a net zero target but noted that flexibility of supply is still needed and argued that gas will still play an important role in the required transition. The Applicant stated they believe that large scale generation from gas will continue to be required.

The Applicant is fully aware of the present challenges which included the non-availability of the infrastructure for carbon capture in the commercial landscape. Therefore, the Applicant intends to move forward on the basis of a low carbon solution for the project; either the capability for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) or firing by hydrogen.

The Applicant does not propose to prepare a standard Carbon Capture readiness (CCR) report but will look at assessing the CCS plant and including the connection corridors for the carbon and hydrogen pipelines and wider infrastructure and commercial arrangements to support both low carbon pathways. The Keadby 3 project is in proximity to the zero-carbon project ambition in the Humber region (Zero Carbon Humber comprising three clusters: southern, northern and western). National Grid Ventures are currently looking at the way that will happen and what is required. The expectation is that there will be a shared approach to the offshore development.

Keadby 3

The existing Keadby 1 CCGT (735MW) has been in operation since 1996; and Keadby 2 CCGT (910MW) is currently under construction. The Keadby Wind Farm Extension project is still listed on the Inspectorate's website. While this project was placed on hold in 2015, SSE Renewables are still planning to progress it. The Applicant will liaise internally and provide a further update on the project's status in due course.

The Keadby 3 project would abstract water from the River Trent and nearby Stainforth and Keadby Canal, and would include a transport access from the A18 (via the South Pilfrey Bridge). The Applicant is currently considering whether to use (re-purpose) the existing abstractions at either the canal or the River Trent (which is the existing outfall). There is no need for a new gas connection. The proposal includes post combustion carbon capture that would broadly replicate the approach currently being considered at Teesside. Amine would be one of the emissions, but they are assessing a worst-case envelope. Further work is to be carried out with regard to this issue to ensure all the relevant information is available. The design of the project is going to be similar to Keadby 2 but with either Post Combustion CCS or hydrogen firing. At present, the Applicant does not consider there will be a need for compulsory acquisition, and noted they are in conversation with the Net Zero Humber development to firm up the route for the planned National Grid proposal.

Next steps

The Applicant advised of their intention to submit a request for an environmental impact assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion in April/May 2020 and set out their programme ahead of holding Stage 1 informal consultation scheduled for late Q2 2020. Stage 2 consultation is currently scheduled to commence in October/November 2020, and the submission of the DCO application for late March 2021. The Inspectorate reminded the Applicant of the advice contained in Advice Note 7 regarding the approach to the required notification and requests for Scoping Opinions and advised that the Applicant should consider the design principles as recommended by the National Infrastructure Commission Design Group. The Inspectorate considers that these principles should be used to guide the planning and delivery of major infrastructure projects from their conception to their completion.

Specific decisions

The following actions were agreed:

- The Inspectorate will set up an email address for the project.
- The Applicant to formally update the Inspectorate on the status of the Keadby Wind Farm Extension project.