



# Preliminary Meeting Note

**Application:** Drax Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage project

**Reference:** EN010120

**Time and date:** Tuesday 17 January 2023, 10:00am

**Venue:** The Parsonage Hotel; and virtually via Microsoft Teams

*This meeting note is not a full transcript of the Preliminary Meeting. It is a summary of the key points discussed. A video recording of the event is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed via the following link: [Recording of the Preliminary Meeting](#).*

## 1. Welcome and introduction

Caroline Jones welcomed those present and introduced herself as the lead member and Ben Northover as member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors, together the Examining Authority (ExA), to examine the Drax Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage application.

The ExA explained the appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The ExA explained that it would be examining the application made by Drax Power Limited (the Applicant) before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, should be made.

## 2. General Data Protection Regulation

The ExA explained the Planning Inspectorate's duties under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Further info relating to the GDPR can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's [Privacy Notice](#).

## 3. Preliminary Meeting process

The ExA explained the purpose of the Preliminary Meeting (PM), and that the PM would focus only on matters of Examination procedure. The ExA advised that questions, discussions and representations about the merits of the application and the Proposed Development were for the Examination itself.

The ExA invited those wishing to speak on the agenda items to introduce themselves. The Applicant, Selby District Council, North Yorkshire County Council, James E Hewitt and Biofuelwatch introduced themselves/ their representatives.

#### **4. Examination process**

The ExA briefly explained that information regarding the Examination process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) was provided in [Annex B of the Rule 6 letter](#) of 13 December 2022. The ExA explained that the Examination would commence after the PM had closed.

The ExA sought comments on the Examination process. No comments were made by any of the parties in attendance.

Further information about the Examination process can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.4](#).

#### **5. Initial Assessment of Principal Issues**

The ExA explained the purpose of the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (section 88 of the PA2008), which can be found in [Annex C of the Rule 6 letter](#), and asked for any observations on them.

No comments were made by any of the parties in attendance.

#### **6. Change request**

The ExA noted that on 13 December 2022 it had accepted into the Examination the Applicant's request to make changes to the application. The ExA summarised the nature of the changes and the reasoning behind its decision. The ExA also outlined the process for parties to comment on the component of the change request that engaged the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (CA Regulations).

The ExA invited comments on the change request from the Applicant. The Applicant provided an update regarding discharging its duties under the CA Regulations. It also confirmed that it now considered East Riding of Yorkshire Council a host local authority in light of the change request.

The ExA sought comments on the change request from all other parties. No comments were made by any other parties in attendance.

#### **7. Procedural Decisions**

The ExA clarified the Procedural Decisions made under section 89(3) of the PA2008 and asked for any observations. Procedural Decisions can be found in [Annex I of the Rule 6 letter](#).

The Applicant summarised the written comments it had submitted into the Examination regarding the preparation of Statements of Common Ground and regarding its intended approach to the submission of a National Policy Statement tracker.

North Yorkshire County Council confirmed that it would be submitting a joint Local Impact Report with Selby District Council.

No comments were made by any other parties in attendance.

## **8. Examination Timetable**

The ExA noted requests, already received in writing, to amend the draft Examination Timetable contained in [Annex D of the Rule 6 letter](#) and also welcomed further suggestions from the parties in attendance.

All comments received were duly noted by the ExA and considerations have been reflected in the Rule 8 letter.

The Examination Timetable can be found in the Rule 8 letter published on Tuesday 24 January 2023.

## **9. Hearings and site inspections**

The ExA confirmed its intention to hold future Examination events as blended events (comprising both virtual and in-person participation) where possible, and summarised the arrangements for the upcoming hearings.

The ExA advised that it had already undertaken an Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI) on 13 and 14 September 2022, [the note of which has been published](#) on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website. The ExA advised that it may undertake further USIs if necessary, and that time had been reserved for an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) to take place during w/c 20 March 2023.

The ExA sought comments from participants on the arrangements for hearings and site inspections. The Applicant summarised and elaborated on written comments it had submitted into the Examination regarding security procedures for a possible ASI. The comments were duly noted and considered by the ExA. No comments were made by any other parties in attendance.

Further information relating to hearings and site inspections can be found in our [Advice Note 8.5](#).

## **10. Any other matters**

The ExA invited comments from participants on any other matters.

North Yorkshire County Council highlighted the ongoing local government reorganisation that would affect both North Yorkshire County Council and Selby District Council.