

# Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Drax Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage Project
<b>File reference</b>	EN010120
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	1 December 2020
<b>Meeting with</b>	Drax Power Limited
<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Inception meeting
<b>Circulation</b>	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.

### *Inception meeting*

Drax Power Ltd (The Applicant) gave a timeline of the Drax Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) project. The Applicant explained that in November 2018, Drax commissioned its first Carbon Capture pilot. In February 2019, the Drax BECCS pilot started capturing CO<sub>2</sub> with 100% biomass feedstock. In December 2019, Drax announced a world-leading ambition to become a carbon negative company by 2030. Drax has had regular engagement with the Carbon Capture and Storage Association (CCSA) to drive the discussion and development of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology, identifying the challenges and opportunities associated with CCS technologies. The Applicant has been in regular dialogue with the Environment Agency (EA) regarding CCS Best Available Technology (BAT) and the development of a draft BAT note. Drax has been integral to the Zero-Carbon Humber (ZCH) partnership and its development over the last 2 years. The Applicant summarised how the Carbon Capture Process works and details of the proposed development. The Applicant stated that the Energy Technology Institute (ETI) identified that successful deployment of BECCS technology could deliver 55 million tonnes of negative CO<sub>2</sub> emission by 2050, half of the UK's emission target.

The Applicant explained that the second pilot study, started August 2020, was due to run for 12 months. This study would help provide data for the BECCS DCO application.

The Applicant clarified the proposed development. The development comprises up to two BECCS units that would be an "extension" to up to two existing biomass units at Drax power station together with communal infrastructure; a Transport and Storage Connection to National Grid infrastructure and, potentially, upgrades to an existing jetty

(subject to need) and road improvements. The proposed development would also comprise laydown, demolition works, connections to the existing generating units and mitigation options including those associated with biodiversity. The Applicant provided a draft red line boundary and would provide this and the shapefile to the Inspectorate in due course.

The Applicant clarified that the Re-power units (the subject of a DCO granted in 2019) were located on the opposite side of the site. The Applicant acknowledged the need to assess the cumulative impacts of Re-Power.

The Applicant summarised that BECCS was an extension to an existing generating station and referred to Section 14(1)(a) and s15 of PA2008, therefore requiring a DCO. The Applicant expressed how BECCS would be functionally linked to the existing generating station, would be integrated into the existing infrastructure, would not be able to operate in isolation, and would be an integral part of the generation process in order to reduce the carbon footprint.

The Applicant gave an overview of the intended timeline. The Applicant is currently preparing its EIA Scoping Report. Ecological surveys have already started in order to capture the wintering bird survey season; these surveys are ongoing. The Applicant explained it had planned meetings with local host authorities. The Applicant intends to submit a Scoping request to the Inspectorate on the 15 January 2021. The Applicant has scheduled two rounds of consultation; one non-statutory and one statutory. The intent is for non-statutory consultations to start following the scoping stage. The Applicant anticipates completion of baseline studies at the end of Q1 2021, which will then inform the statutory consultations. The Applicant aims to have a design freeze in mid 2021 and conduct statutory consultation from the beginning of September 2021. The Applicant recognised that COVID may have an impact on consultations in 2021 and was considering ways to address this through use of different consultation media. The Applicant's target submission date is end of Q1 2022. The Applicant aims to start construction on BECCS Unit 2 in Q2 2024.

The Applicant explained that the majority of land is within its ownership. However, as the redline is developed, there may be some small areas that are outside of its DPL's ownership. Should it be necessary, the Applicant will apply for Compulsory Acquisition powers and are aware a book of reference/ land plans would be required to support the application.

The Inspectorate asked what the dependency of the project is with National Grid's CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline i.e. whether the Proposed Development could be operated without the pipeline. The Applicant stated that the proposed development would only come forward with an operational pipeline. The Applicant clarified that CO<sub>2</sub> would likely be piped to the Endurance saline aquifer. The pipeline would be subject to a separate NSIP application by National Grid.

The Inspectorate noted that the jetty works could require a Deemed Marine Licence (DML). The Applicant stated that it was aware of the requirement for a DML and noted that there was an existing jetty facility present.

The Inspectorate reminded the Applicant that the Environmental Statement (ES) should consider the need for a navigational risk assessment in respect of marine facilities such

as jetties and that early engagement with relevant consultation bodies was recommended.

The Applicant clarified who would be a part of the case team and provided information for the person who would liaise with the Inspectorate.

***Specific decisions/ follow-up required?***

The following actions were agreed:

- The Applicant requested having regular meetings within the Pre-App stage due to this project's interconnectivity.
- The Inspectorate agreed to register the project on the National Infrastructure website. The Applicant consented to a project webpage.

Next meeting in the New year, once the consenting programme was developed.