



Meeting note

Project name	Drax Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage Project
File reference	EN010120
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	23 September 2021
Meeting with	Drax Power Limited
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.

Design Update

The Applicant gave the Inspectorate an update on the final design of the project. This included identifying where the Carbon Capture infrastructure is to be located as well as the office space, Environmental Mitigation Area and other road modifications.

Programme update

The Applicant confirmed that it has received comments from the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) with regard to its draft Statement of Community Consultation (dSoCC). The response from the LPAs was mainly positive about the consultation plans. The comments that were received have been addressed. The Applicant intends to publicise the SoCC in October 2021.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate about its plans to organise the Statutory Consultation as in-person and online events based on the feedback received during the non-statutory Consultation; it is expected to run from early November to mid-December. The Inspectorate queried how the in-person events(s) were going to be organised, to which the Applicant responded that a multidisciplinary team will be available to explain the project to the public.

The Applicant has been active in engaging with the Local Authorities throughout the process and working on preparing a Statement of Common Ground with both Local Authorities. Efforts have also been made to engage with statutory bodies.

The Inspectorate advised that if the Applicant intended to use the draft document review service, that any documents that were to be submitted for review, should be done at least 6 weeks in advance of submission of the application to ensure that constructive advice can be given.

Consenting plan

The Inspectorate asked about the proposed connection to the Humber Low Carbon Pipelines project by National Grid (NG) to export the carbon dioxide and how the Applicant was going to deal with any uncertainties about the delivery of the full chain CCS proposals. The Inspectorate commented that the Humber Low Carbon Pipelines application would not have been decided by the time of the Drax BECCS examination and decision. The Applicant hoped that the replacement Energy NPSs would provide a clearer policy steer with regard to CCS but in the meantime they intended to proceed on the basis that the CCS infrastructure would be in place and the ES would cumulatively assess the BECCS project with publicly available information on National Grid's project. The Applicant commented that the Drax BECCS project used biomass and therefore any connection to CCS infrastructure would make the operation of the generating station carbon negative. The application was being taken forward in that context.

Review of National Policy Statements

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it was aware of the possible reviews and re-writes of the National Policy Statements (NPSs) but are hopeful that these will be designated by the time of submission.

Next steps

A project update meeting is to be arranged for Q1 2022.

