



Meeting note

Project name	Cory Decarbonisation Project (River Thames CCS Project)
File reference	N/A
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	13 August 2021
Meeting with	Corey Group
Venue	Microsoft Teams
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 advised they will take a note of the meeting and publish to the website under s51 advice. 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.

Project context and overview

The Applicant shared an image of the Proposed Development (PD), the River Thames Carbon Capture and Storage project, in the context of the existing and proposed facilities at the development site. The Applicant outlined current business operations; processing 750,000 tonnes of non-recyclable and 70,000 tonnes of recyclable waste per annum at the Riverside Energy from Waste (EfW) facility in Belvedere (RRRF). Operations on the River Thames have been ongoing for over 125 years and the Applicant confirmed an energy output of 560 GWh of electricity waste from this process in 2020. The Applicant explained how it aims to achieve net zero carbon by 2050 and made it clear that the PD will not create additional emissions through the building of the second EfW plant at the site as it will also displace waste that would otherwise be treated in landfill. The PD aims to capture the carbon from both the existing RRRF and the consented Riverside Energy Park (REP) and will link into the Riverside Heat Network that Cory is currently developing.

The Applicant described the PD as a carbon capture and storage project, aiming to capture approximately 1.5 million tonnes per annum, equating to 4,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per day. The CO₂ would be captured and liquified on the Applicant's site at Belvedere. The Applicant plans to leverage its river logistics expertise to export CO₂ via

ship vessel to an offshore underground storage facility. An indicative timeline for the project was outlined, with EIA scoping planned for Q2 2022, dDCO submission at Q2 2023 and construction in 2025.

The Applicant explained the transfer of London's waste via the natural 'green highway' of the River Thames. Waste at the RRRF and REP is primarily sourced from London and the South East, but if the PD were to be constructed it could have the capacity to receive CO₂ from other facilities with access to river transportation. It was emphasised that a strategy to utilise the Thames for the transport of the waste to RRRF and REP has already been adopted, significantly reducing levels of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) by reducing the number of on-road vehicle movements.

A case study example of the Petra Nova Carbon Capture Plant in Houston, Texas, was presented to the Inspectorate which yields a similar capacity to the PD – approximately 1.4 million tonnes per annum. An outline of the process, from the EfW facility through to ship exportation was explained, noting a 90% capture of CO₂ from start to finish.

A plan of the Applicant's optimised (subject to feasibility) proposal of the PD was shared with the Inspectorate. Land was identified for the capture, liquefaction, storage, and the potential expansion opportunity area – totalling approximately 33,500m². Third-party land was identified to be potentially required, noting that a detailed optioneering approach will be taken to form the bases of the land assembly strategy. The Inspectorate queried whether the third-party land is likely to be sought through Compulsory Acquisition (CA) rights or by agreement. The Applicant explained there are a few options available, however there is a reasonable chance for agreement with the landowners should third party land be required. The Inspectorate queried the environmental constraints of the PD. The Applicant explained that the majority of environmentally sensitive land is to the south of the PD, however it was noted that optioneering will take this into account. It was also reiterated that CA will preferably be avoided in the first instance. The Inspectorate queried whether phase 1 surveys have begun and the Applicant's approach to biodiversity net gain. The Applicant explained that there is significant data from previous studies at the existing REP, however additional studies will be carried out for the new PD. Net positive biodiversity was explained to be part of the design philosophy, outlining that the existing REP has a 10% net gain minimum through offsetting.

A new proposed CO₂ export jetty was discussed, which the Applicant intends to be situated near the existing EfW jetty. The Applicant outlined the rationale for this, explaining that it would significantly reduce the requirement for dredging. CO₂ storage was discussed, with the Applicant intending to utilise either UK or Norwegian offshore storage sites and the Applicant is in active discussions with a number of potential storage sites. These would either be saline aquifers or depleted hydrocarbon reservoirs. The Applicant noted how it was currently engaging with key stakeholders, describing positive initial conversations with parties such as the London Borough of Bexley and the Port of London Authority.

The Applicant outlined reasons why the PD is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). The existing RRRF and REP are both existing NSIP stations. The RRRF has a 72MW capacity, with an application currently under consideration to the SoS seeking a capacity increase to 80.5MW. The REP has a capacity of 50-300MW and so both facilities satisfy s14(1)(a) of the PA2008 by being classed as

an “extension” to the generating station under the Electricity Act 1989. An indicative DCO programme was outlined by the Applicant. Pre-application, including EIA scoping meetings with the Inspectorate and stakeholders is due to commence Q1 2022 and run until Q2 2023 (submission). Pre-examination to Decision will run from Q3/4 2023 to Q4 2024. Construction of the PD is aimed to begin in 2025.

The Inspectorate advised that there are some key planning issues to resolve before consulting key stakeholders. The Inspectorate queried the scrubbing process and the likely process waste streams. The Applicant explained that the solvent used will require periodic replacement; this will not be waste as it will either be continuously regenerated or returned to the supplier for processing. The Applicant explained that NO_x levels from the existing plant have been significantly reduced, representing the third lowest levels in the UK for such a facility. The PD, with the proposed scrubbing method, will provide the lowest levels of NO_x in the UK.

The Inspectorate suggested the next meeting to take place once the scheme has progressed further, potentially towards the end of 2021. The Applicant agreed the end of November would be suitable once it has had an opportunity to discuss with BEIS and develop the scheme further.

