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Dear Ms Robbins

THE SLOUGH MULTIFUEL EXTENSION PROJECT

APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT CONSENT UNDER SECTION 37 'APPLICATIONS FOR ORDERS GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT' OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE CONSENTED SLOUGH MULTIFUEL FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT

LAND AT EDINBURGH AVENUE, THE SLOUGH TRADING ESTATE, SLOUGH, SL1 4TU

We enclose an application (the 'Application') submitted on behalf of SSE Slough Multifuel Limited (the 'Applicant') for a Development Consent Order (a 'DCO'), that has been submitted to the Secretary of State (the 'SoS') for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, under Section 37 of The Planning Act 2008 (the 'PA 2008') in respect of the Slough Multifuel Extension Project.

The Applicant is seeking development consent for the extension of the consented Slough Multifuel Facility (the 'Consented Development'), an energy from waste electricity generating station, on land at Edinburgh Avenue, at the Slough Trading Estate, Slough (the 'Site').

A DCO is required for the extension (the 'Proposed Project') as it falls within the definition and thresholds for a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' (a 'NSIP') under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1)(2)(a) to (c) of the PA 2008, being the extension of an onshore electricity generating station in England which, when extended, will have a capacity of more than 50 megawatts ('MW'). The DCO, if made by the SoS, would be known as 'The Slough Multifuel Extension Order 202[X]' (the 'Order').

The Applicant

The Applicant, SSE Slough Multifuel Limited ('SMF'), is a 50:50 joint venture between SSE Thermal and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners ('CIP').

SSE Thermal, part of the FTSE-listed SSE plc, is a leading developer, owner and operator of flexible generation, energy-from-waste, and energy storage assets, with over 600 direct employees across the UK and Ireland. SSE Thermal's vision is to become the leading provider of flexible thermal energy in a net-zero world. SSE Generation Limited was granted planning permission in June 2017 to construct the Consented Development at the Site. SSE currently operates the existing Slough Heat and Power Plant at the Slough Trading Estate through a company called Slough Heat and Power Limited.

CIP was founded in 2012 and is a fund management company specialising in offering tailor made investment in energy infrastructure assets globally, in particular within the renewable energy sector. CIP is a renewable market pioneer with involvement in some of the World's largest offshore wind projects and other major energy infrastructure projects in North-Western Europe, North America, and Asia Pacific. CIP has extensive biomass and energy from waste experience in the UK.

The Proposed Project Site

The Proposed Project site (the 'Site') lies entirely within the administrative boundary of Slough Borough Council, a unitary authority, and is located either side of Edinburgh Avenue within the Slough Trading Estate (National Grid Reference SU 953 814) approximately 2.5 kilometres north west of Slough Town Centre.

The Site extends to approximately 2.8 hectares in area and was acquired by SSE in 2008. It forms part of the original Slough Heat and Power Plant site.

The Consented Development, was originally consented in June 2017 under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (the 'TCPA') (under Planning Permission Refs. P/00987/051 (being a section 73 variation of P/00987/024 and P/00987/035) and P/00987/025, P/00987/052 and P/19876/000) and is currently being constructed at the Site. Construction of the Consented Development at the Site is well advanced and is currently expected to be completed by Quarter 4 2024.

A more detailed description of the Site and its surroundings is provided at Chapter 4 'Existing Site Conditions' of the Environmental Statement ('ES') Volume I (Document Ref. 6.2).

The Proposed Project

The Proposed Project is an extension to the Consented Development comprising the carrying out of the following physical works (**Work No. 1** at Schedule 1 'Authorised Development' of the draft DCO, Document Ref. 2.1) which will increase the efficiency and gross installed capacity of the extended generating station from just under 50MW to circa 60MW:

- a boiler primary air preheating system comprising heat exchanger bundles, pipework, valves, pipe supports, thermal insulation, instrumentation, cabling and containment;
- a boiler secondary air preheating system comprising heat exchanger bundles, pipework, valves, pipe supports, thermal insulation, instrumentation, cabling and containment; and
- mechanical modifications to the actuated steam turbine inlet control valve to allow steam capacity to be increased.

The physical works comprised in the extension are 'engineering operations' and therefore 'development' for the purposes of Section 31 of the PA 2008.

As is set out more fully in the Explanatory Memorandum (Document Ref. 2.2), it is only the extension which is the NSIP pursuant to Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) of the PA 2008 and which requires development consent pursuant to Section 31 of the PA 2008. The Consented Development is consented and being constructed pursuant to the TCPA. It is not an NSIP, nor does it form part of one.

Separately, the extended generating station requires an ancillary authorisation to 'operate' at over 50MW pursuant to Section 36 of 'The Electricity Act 1989', and this is included within the DCO. This is further explained within the Explanatory Memorandum.

The Proposed Project also includes ‘associated development’ within the meaning of Section 115(2) of the PA 2008, including temporary construction laydown areas, contractor facilities, vehicle parking and cycle storage facilities.

The Proposed Project will not increase the throughput of waste, vehicle movements, emissions, or operating hours at the Slough Multifuel Facility, and will not alter the scale or external appearance of the consented buildings and structures.

A more detailed description of the Proposed Project is provided at Schedule 1 'Authorised Development' of the draft DCO (Document Ref. 2.1) and Chapter 2 'Proposed Project' in ES Volume I (Document Ref. 6.2) and the area within which the physical works are to occur are denoted by the hatched area on the Work Plan (Document Ref. 4.3).

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Proposed Project represents an Environmental Impact Assessment (‘EIA’) development and the Application therefore includes an Environmental Statement (‘ES’) that reports the findings of the EIA undertaken. The EIA has been carried out, and the ES prepared, in accordance with The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

The ES comprises the following documents, which form part of the Application submitted to the SoS:

- ES Non-Technical Summary – Document Ref. 6.1.
- ES Volume I (Main Report) – Document Ref. 6.2.
- ES Volume II (Figures) – Document Ref. 6.3.
- ES Volume III (Appendices) – Document Ref. 6.4.

The Application Submission

The Application Guide (Document Ref. 1.2) lists the documents, including the ES, that make up the Application (the ‘Application Submission’) and how these comply with relevant legislative and policy requirements. The Application Guide is a ‘live’ document that will be updated throughout the examination of the Application, as required.

The location of the Site is shown on the Site Location Plan (Document Ref. 4.1) and the extent of the land to which the draft DCO relates is shown on the Land Plan (Document Ref. 4.2). The Work Plan (Document Ref. 4.3) shows the ‘Order Limits’ and identifies the location and area within which the physical works comprised within Work No. 1 will be undertaken (and the location and area of the extended generating station in relation to which the ancillary authorisation to operate at more than 50MW is sought). The extent of Work No. 1 is denoted by the hatched area on the Work Plan.

As confirmed above, Schedule 1 of the draft DCO (Document Ref. 2.1) provides the detailed formal description of the Proposed Project and its elements and identifies the Works No. (Work No. 1) covering those elements (shown on the Work Plan).

The draft DCO does not seek any powers of compulsory acquisition of interests or rights in land as all of the land within the Order Limits is within the control of the Applicant and it holds all the necessary rights and interests in the land.

Information on the interests and rights that exist in relation to the land within the Order Limits, and used to ensure compliance with consultation requirements, is provided within the Land Ownership

and Interests Schedule (Document Ref. 3.1). A Statement of Reasons and Funding Statement have not been submitted as the Applicant is not seeking any powers of compulsory acquisition of interests or rights in land.

The Applicant has consulted fully on the Proposed Project. This has included two main stages of pre-application consultation – a stage of non-statutory consultation (Stage 1), followed by a stage of statutory consultation (Stage 2) in accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008. The pre-application consultation undertaken and how responses received to that consultation have been considered is documented within the Consultation Report and its Appendices (Document Ref. 5.1). In accordance with Regulation 5(5) of ‘The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009’, the Applicant retains all responses to the consultations carried out and can make them available at the request of the SoS. The need for the Proposed Project and its compliance with the relevant National Policy Statements and other important and relevant matters such as other national planning policies and the statutory development plan is set out in the Planning Statement (Document Ref. 5.2). The Planning Statement also provides an overview of the benefits and impacts of the Proposed Project and considers its overall acceptability in planning terms.

A standalone Design and Access Statement has not been submitted as part of the Application on the basis that the Proposed Project is solely for engineering works that will not alter the external appearance of the Consented Development, but appropriate details of design are included in the Planning Statement and shown upon the Multifuel Facility Plans (Document Ref. 4.4).

Article 8 ‘Planning permission’ of the draft DCO clarifies that works done pursuant to a planning permission granted within the Order Limits, which are required in connection with the Proposed Project, shall not constitute a breach of the Order. Equally, works done pursuant to the Order shall not constitute a breach of planning permission.

Schedule 2 of the draft DCO contains a number of ‘requirements’ relating to the Proposed Project, which take account of the fact that this is an extension to the Consented Development (see above) and ensure that the construction, commissioning, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Project is carried out in the same way as the Consented Development. It is noted that the only requirement identified as specifically necessary to mitigate the impacts of the Proposed Project relates to compliance with the Construction Environmental Management Plan approved for the Consented Development. This is subject to additional controls in the DCO requirements to ensure that the version assessed in the ES is complied with.

The Applicant has included a Planning Conditions and DCO Requirements Tracker (Document Ref. 5.7) with the Application which underpins the approach that it has taken to the requirements. The Applicant also proposes to enter into a Section 106 Deed of Variation with Slough Borough Council, the relevant local planning authority, to bind the DCO to the existing obligations which relate to the Consented Development. The Applicant has been liaising closely with Slough Borough Council on the approach to the requirements and Section 106 Deed of Variation, and a Statement of Common Ground is being prepared.

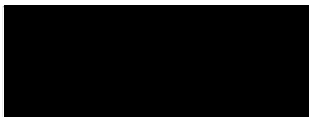
The Application documents can be downloaded by PINS using the file share link and password provided via e-mail separately.

The required application fee of £7,488.00 was paid to PINS by BACS on 5 September 2022.



We look forward to receiving PINS' acknowledgement of receipt of the Application and in due course its decision on acceptance. In the meantime, should you have any questions with regard to the Application, please do not hesitate to contact Geoff Bullock [REDACTED] [REDACTED] or Rob Booth [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



DWD – on behalf SSE Slough Multifuel Limited