

# **SLOUGH MULTIFUEL EXTENSION PROJECT**

Planning Inspectorate Ref: EN010129

## **The Slough Multifuel Extension Order**

**Land at 342 Edinburgh Avenue, Slough Trading Estate, Slough**

**Document Ref: 8.2 – Statement of Common Ground with the  
Environment Agency**

The Planning Act 2008



**Applicant: SSE Slough Multifuel Limited**

March 2023

## DOCUMENT HISTORY

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## GLOSSARY

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Description</b>
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CIP	Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
ExA	Examining Authority
FTSE	Financial Times Stock Exchange
ha	Hectare
Km	Kilometre
MW	Megawatts
NE	Natural England
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, as defined by Section 14 of the Planning Act 2008
PA	Planning Act 2008
SMF	SSE Slough Multifuel Limited
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SoS	Secretary of State
TCPA	Town and Country Planning Act 1990

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) (Document Ref. 8.2) has been prepared jointly by SSE Slough Multifuel Limited (the 'Applicant') and the Environment Agency in respect of the Slough Multifuel Extension Project (the 'Proposed Project').
- 1.1.2 It relates to the application (the 'Application') that has been submitted to the Secretary of State (the 'SoS') for Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, under Section 37 of 'The Planning Act 2008' (the 'PA 2008'), seeking development consent for the Proposed Project. The Application was accepted for Examination by the SoS on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022.
- 1.1.3 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 the Slough Trading Estate, Slough (the 'Site').
- 1.1.4 A DCO is required for the extension (the 'Proposed Project') as it falls within the definitions and thresholds for a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' (a 'NSIP') under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15 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').
- 1.1.5 This SoCG sets out the matters of agreement between the Applicant and the Environment Agency (the 'Parties') and also sets out those matters which, at the time of writing, remain to be agreed between the Parties.
- 1.1.6 The agreements to date have been reached through consultation and continuing discussions between the Parties. The Parties are committed to maintaining regular dialogue through the Examination with the aim of reaching agreement on all relevant matters relating to the Application.
- 1.1.7 The matters covered in this SoCG are those which are within the Environment Agency's area of expertise and statutory functions.

### 1.2 The Proposed Project Site

- 1.2.1 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 ('km') north west of Slough Town Centre.
- 1.2.2 The Site extends to approximately 2.8 hectares ('ha') in area and was acquired by SSE in 2008. It forms part of the original Slough Heat and Power Plant site.
- 1.2.3 The Consented Development, which was originally consented in June 2017 under 'The Town and Country Planning Act 1990' (the 'TCPA') (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), is currently being constructed at the Site. Construction of the Consented Development is well advanced and is currently expected to be completed by Quarter 4 2024.

### 1.3 The Proposed Project

1.3.1 The Proposed Project involves the extension of the Consented Development through carrying out the following physical works (Work No. 1 at Schedule 1 'Authorised Development' of the draft DCO, Document Ref. 2.1) **[APP-006]** to increase the efficiency and gross installed capacity of the 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 stream turbine inlet control valve to allow steam capacity to be increased.

1.3.2 As is set out more fully in the Explanatory Memorandum (Document Ref. 2.2) **[APP-007]**, it is only the extension which is the NSIP pursuant to Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) of the PA 2008, and the development forming part of the extension (being the Authorised Development) 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.

1.3.3 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.

1.3.4 The Proposed Project also includes 'associated development' within the meaning of Section 115(2) of the PA 2008, including but not limited to, temporary construction laydown areas, contractor facilities, vehicle parking and cycle storage facilities.

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

### 1.4 The Applicant

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

- 1.4.2 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.
- 1.4.3 Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) was founded in 2021 and is a fund management company specialised in offering tailor made investment in energy infrastructure assets globally, in particular within the renewable energy sector. CIP are renewable market pioneers 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.

## **1.5 Environment Agency Status and Interests**

- 1.5.1 The Environment Agency is a prescribed consultee for the purposes of Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008.

## **1.6 The Purpose and Structure of this Document**

- 1.6.1 The purpose of this document is to summarise the agreements reached between the Parties on matters relevant to the Examination of the Application and to assist the Examining Authority (ExA).
- 1.6.2 The SoCG has been prepared with regard to guidance in 'Planning Act 2008: examination of application for development consent' (Department for Communities and Local Government, March 2015').
- 1.6.3 The SoCG is structured as follows:
- Section 2 – sets out the consultation and related discussions held between the Applicant and the Environment Agency.
  - Section 3 – sets out the matters discussed and agreed to date.
  - Section 4 – sets out the matters to be agreed and the proposed way forward.

## 2.0 SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

### 2.1 Overview

2.1.1 This section provides a summary of how the Applicant has consulted the Environment Agency in respect of the Proposed Project and also sets out the discussions that have taken place between the Parties.

### 2.2 Summary of Consultation

2.2.1 **Table 2.1** below provides a summary of how the Applicant has consulted the Environment Agency.

**Table 2.1: Summary of Consultation**

Consultation Stage/Date	Summary of Consultation
EIA Scoping	Submission of the EIA Scoping Report on 17 November 2021.
Stage 1 Consultation (15 Nov to 17 Dec 2021)	The Applicant provided an update via newspaper advertisements, posters, and the project website on the work being carried out in respect of the Proposed Project and the proposals for future consultation.
Stage 2 Consultation (statutory) (5 May to 17 June 2022)	The Applicant consulted the Environment Agency pursuant to Section 42 of the PA 2008, via letter dated 3 May 2022.

### 2.3 Summary of Discussions

2.3.1 A summary of discussions that have taken place between the Parties to date is set out in **Table 2.2** below.

**Table 2.2: Summary of Discussions**

Discussion/Meeting Date	Summary of Consultation
Email – 17 December 2021	Response from the Environment Agency acknowledging EIA Scoping Report and Consultation:  <i>“Based on the submitted description of the proposed development we are content with the rational and environmental topics to be scoped in and out of the forthcoming Environmental Statement.”</i>
Email - 11 May 2022	Acknowledgment of receipt to Stage 2 Section 42 Consultation. No further response was received from the Environment Agency.

### 3.0 MATTERS AGREED

3.1.1 This section at **Table 3.1** below sets out the matters agreed between the Parties.

**Table 3.1: Matters Agreed**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Matter Agreed</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
General	1	Legislation and policy	<p>The Environmental Statement (ES) has identified and appropriately considered all applicable legislation and national policy pertaining to the following assessments undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 8 Air Quality [<b>APP-033</b>];</li> <li>• Chapter 9 Noise and vibration [<b>APP-034</b>];</li> <li>• Chapter 10 Ecology [<b>APP-035</b>];</li> <li>• Chapter 11 Climate Change [<b>APP-036</b>];</li> <li>• Chapter 12 Other Issues [<b>APP-037</b>]; and</li> <li>• Chapter 13 Effect Interactions [<b>APP-038</b>]</li> </ul>
	2	Study area definition and extents	<p>The study areas adopted by SSE Slough Multifuel Limited within the following assessments reflect current good industry practice and standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Quality [<b>APP-033</b>];</li> <li>• Noise and vibration [<b>APP-034</b>];</li> <li>• Ecology [<b>APP-035</b>];</li> <li>• Climate Change [<b>APP-036</b>];</li> <li>• Other Issues [<b>APP-037</b>]; and</li> <li>• Effect Interactions [<b>APP-038</b>].</li> </ul> <p>The geographical extents of the adopted study areas are appropriate to identify the likely direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Project on sensitive features and receptors.</p>
	3	Application of expert/professional judgements	<p>The identification of likely significant effects (or lack thereof) on sensitive features and receptors has been informed by professional judgement and the views of relevant technical</p>



			<p>specialists, where necessary. The application of professional judgement by its specialists within the following assessments are appropriate and robust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Quality <b>[APP-033]</b>;</li> <li>• Noise and vibration <b>[APP-034]</b>;</li> <li>• Ecology <b>[APP-035]</b>;</li> <li>• Climate Change <b>[APP-036]</b>;</li> <li>• Other Issues <b>[APP-037]</b>; and</li> <li>• Effect Interactions <b>[APP-038]</b>.</li> </ul>
	4	Assessment assumptions and limitations	<p>The following assessments record the assumptions applied and the approaches taken by SSE Slough Multifuel Limited to reduce any uncertainty resulting from any limitations encountered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Quality <b>[APP-033]</b>;</li> <li>• Noise and vibration <b>[APP-034]</b>;</li> <li>• Ecology <b>[APP-035]</b>;</li> <li>• Climate Change <b>[APP-036]</b>;</li> <li>• Other Issues <b>[APP-037]</b>; and</li> <li>• Effect Interactions <b>[APP-038]</b>.</li> </ul> <p>It is considered by the parties that the assumptions adopted in these assessments are reasonable and appropriate.</p>
	5	Presentation of results	<p>The following application documents present the approaches to, and outcomes of, assessments undertaken to identify the likely significant effects of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Quality <b>[APP-033]</b>;</li> <li>• Noise and vibration <b>[APP-034]</b>;</li> <li>• Ecology <b>[APP-035]</b>;</li> <li>• Climate Change <b>[APP-036]</b>;</li> <li>• Other Issues <b>[APP-037]</b>; and</li> <li>• Effect Interactions <b>[APP-038]</b>.</li> </ul> <p>It is considered by the Parties that the format and methods used to present the assessments undertaken are clear, accurate and unambiguous.</p>
Baseline	6	Data collection methods, baseline data and	<p>The baseline conditions have been collated using desk based and field-based techniques, and through</p>

		the identification and sensitivity of relevant features and receptors	consultation with stakeholders. It is considered by the Parties that the scope, coverage and timing of surveys undertaken to establish the baseline conditions and sensitive features and receptors are in line with good industry practice and appropriate to inform the assessment of direct and indirect effects reported in the assessments provided within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Quality [APP-033];</li> <li>• Noise and vibration [APP-034];</li> <li>• Ecology [APP-035];</li> <li>• Climate Change [APP-036];</li> <li>• Other Issues [APP-037]; and</li> <li>• Effect Interactions [APP-038].</li> </ul>
Assessment Findings	7	Assessment findings: Construction, operation and decommissioning effects	It is considered by the Parties that the assessments provided within <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Quality [APP-033];</li> <li>• Noise and vibration [APP-034];</li> <li>• Ecology [APP-035];</li> <li>• Climate Change [APP-036];</li> <li>• Other Issues [APP-037]; and</li> <li>• Effect Interactions [APP-038]</li> </ul> have identified the adverse and beneficial effects that would potentially result from construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Project; and that none of these would result in significant residual effects.
Mitigation	8	Mitigation: Construction, operation and decommissioning phase	The only mitigation required in respect of potential effects of the Proposed Project is that which is secured in the Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). This is considered acceptable by the Parties and is adequately secured by the relevant draft DCO requirements.
Cumulative effects	9	Effect Interactions: Assessment findings: Construction, operation and decommissioning effects	No significant adverse effects would arise from the effects of the Proposed Project interacting cumulatively with other planned projects and developments.
Other consents	10	Environmental Permit changes	The identification in Document Ref. 5.4 – Other Consents [APP-020] of

			<p>other consents, permits or licenses required before the Proposed Project can become operational, is accurate.</p> <p>No substantial changes are required to the Environmental Permit (EP) for the Slough Multifuel Facility as a result of the Proposed Project. The Environmental Permit for the Consented Development is applicable to the Proposed Project and does not require amendment due to the Proposed Project, other than administrative changes. The administrative changes would be to update the total generating capacity of the operations from 50MW to circa 60MW where this has been included. The appropriateness and effectiveness of the reliance on controls in the existing Environmental Permit is adequate for the purpose of the Proposed Project.</p>
Climate change	11	Resilience to climate change	<p>The Proposed Project is adequately resilient to the effects of climate change as set out in Chapter 11 – Climate Change and Sustainability of the ES <b>[APP-036]</b>.</p>

## 4.0 MATTERS TO BE AGREED

4.1.1 The matters still to be agreed between the parties are set out in **Table 4.1** below.

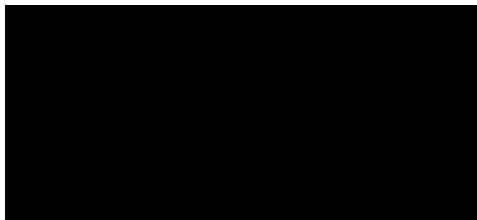
**Table 4.1: Matters to be Agreed**

No.	Matter to be Agreed	Commentary
1	None	None

Signed:

**On behalf**

Date: 20 M



Signed:

**On behalf of: Environment Agency**

Date: 16 March 2023