

# **SLOUGH MULTIFUEL EXTENSION PROJECT**

Planning Inspectorate Ref: EN010129

## **The Slough Multifuel Extension Order**

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

**Document Ref: 8.4 – Statement of Common Ground with Royal Mail**

The Planning Act 2008



**Applicant: SSE Slough Multifuel Limited**

April 2023 – Deadline 3

## DOCUMENT HISTORY

<b>Document Ref.</b>	8.4		
<b>Revision</b>	1.0		
<b>Author</b>	Nathan Cheung (NC)		
<b>Signed</b>	NC	<b>Date</b>	06.04.2023
<b>Approved By</b>	Geoff Bullock (GB)		
<b>Signed</b>	GB	<b>Date</b>	06.04.2023
<b>Document Owner</b>	DWD		

DRAFT

## CONTENTS

<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Overview .....	1
1.2 The Proposed Project Site .....	1
1.3 The Proposed Project .....	2
1.4 The Applicant .....	2
1.5 Royal Mail Status and Interests .....	3
1.6 The Purpose and Structure of this Document.....	3
<b>2.0 SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 Overview .....	4
2.2 Summary of Consultation/Discussions .....	4
<b>3.0 MATTERS AGREED .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4.0 MATTERS TO BE AGREED .....</b>	<b>7</b>

## TABLES

<b>Table 2.1: Summary of Consultation/Discussions .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Table 3.1: Matters Agreed .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Table 4.1: Matters to be Agreed .....</b>	<b>7</b>

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground ('SoCG') (Document Ref. 8.4) has been prepared jointly by SSE Slough Multifuel Limited (the 'Applicant') and Royal Mail Group Limited ('Royal Mail') in respect of the Slough Multifuel Extension Project (the 'Proposed Project').
- 1.1.2 The SoCG relates to the application (the 'Application') that was been submitted to the Secretary of State (the 'SoS') for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (now the SoS for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero or 'DESNZ'), under Section 37 of 'The Planning Act 2008' (the 'PA 2008'), seeking development consent for the Proposed Project on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The Application was accepted for Examination by the Planning Inspectorate 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.
- 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 The SoCG sets out the matters of agreement between the Applicant and Royal Mail (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 maintain regular dialogue through the Examination with the aim of reaching agreement on all relevant matters relating to the Application.

### 1.2 The Proposed Project Site

- 1.2.1 The Proposed Project Site (the 'Site') lies entirely within the administrative boundary of SBC, 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 at the Site 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) 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), 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 CIP was founded in 2012 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 Royal Mail Status and Interests**

1.5.1 Royal Mail is a designated provider of a Universal Postal Service in the United Kingdom. In its Relevant Representation, the Royal Mail has identified that it operates the Slough Delivery Office that is approximately 3 km south-east of the Site, and a further 10 operational facilities located within approximately 16 km.

1.5.2 Royal Mail is a statutory undertaker 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 held between the Applicant and Royal Mail.
- 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

### 2.1 Overview

2.1.1 This section provides a summary of how the Applicant has consulted Royal Mail on the Proposed Project.

### 2.2 Summary of Consultation/Discussions

2.2.1 **Table 2.1** below provides a summary of the consultation that has taken place.

**Table 2.1: Summary of Consultation/Discussions**

<b>Consultation Stage/Date</b>	<b>Summary of Consultation/Discussions</b>
Stage 1 Consultation (non-statutory)  (15 November – 17 December 2021)	The Applicant consulted Royal Mail as part of its non-statutory consultation with the local community and key stakeholders within the vicinity of the Proposed Project.
Stage 2 Consultation	The Applicant consulted Royal Mail pursuant to Section 42 of the PA 2008, via letter dated 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2022.
Meeting on 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Meeting with Royal Mail to provide further information on the Proposed Project.

### 3.0 MATTERS AGREED

3.1.1 The matters agreed are set out in **Table 3.1** below.

**Table 3.1: Matters Agreed**

No.	Matters Agreed	Commentary
1.	Impacts on local transport networks, including lorry routeing and off-site parking	<p>The Parties agree that there are sufficient controls in place or proposed through the draft DCO to ensure that the construction and operational traffic associated with the Proposed Project is adequately managed and that no adverse impacts are encountered on the highway network by Royal Mail.</p> <p>The Parties agree that Royal Mail's operations would be adequately protected during the construction phase through the measures secured by the Construction Environmental Management Plan ('CEMP'), which includes measures for the management of construction traffic and access/haul routes and controlled hours for delivery, and the Construction Traffic Management Plan ('CTMP') (Application Document 7.6), which the Proposed Project would be required to comply with pursuant to the draft DCO requirements (Application Document Ref. 2.1).</p> <p>The construction of the Consented Development is currently taking place pursuant to the planning permissions granted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Construction is being carried out in accordance with the CEMP and the CTMP.</p> <p>The construction traffic associated with the Consented Development has been managed in accordance with the approved CEMP and</p>



		<p>CTMP, and to date Royal Mail has not encountered any adverse impacts on its operations as a result of the construction traffic associated with the Consented Development.</p> <p>Requirements 6(1)(a) and 7(1)(b) of the draft DCO ensure that the Proposed Project shall comply with the requirements of Condition 36 (Highways Scheme) of the Consented Development planning permission. Condition 36 requires the local planning authority's approval of a scheme describing site security, haul routes, arrangements for keeping the public highway clean, parking for fuel and other delivery vehicles, staff and maintenance vehicles. The Parties agree that the controls secured by this scheme are adequate to protect Royal Mail's operations during the operation of the Proposed Project and to ensure that no adverse impacts are encountered on the highway network by Royal Mail as a result of the operation of the Proposed Project. .</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

DRAFT

Signed:

**On behalf of: SSE Slough Multifuel Limited**

Date:

Signed:

**On behalf of: Royal Mail Group Limited**

Date:

DRAFT