



Meeting note

Project name	Slough Multifuel Extension Project
File reference	EN010129
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	04 August 2022
Meeting with	SSE Slough Multifuel Limited
Venue	Microsoft teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update 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.

Project Update

The Applicant explained the current situation with the construction works associated with the TCPA permission and their relationship with the proposed extension works. The Applicant noted it has finished its main civil package of works including roads, elevated tipping hall deck and waste bunker including primary steelwork. The Applicant noted Hitachi's target construction completion date is November 2023 but is currently predicting finishing 2 months ahead of schedule.

The Applicant noted its Environmental Statement (ES) is in a well progressed state.

Approach to the DCO requirements/s106 agreement

The Applicant noted its draft DCO and s106 documentation has been sent to Slough Borough Council (SBC) and it has developed an early draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with SBC.

The Applicant explained its DCO application is for engineering works comprising an extension to the TCPA permitted generating station. As a result of the proposed works the capacity of the TCPA permitted generating station will exceed 50 MW. The Applicant noted that the Red Line Boundary (RLB) for the DCO has been drawn taking into account the s36 Electricity Act consent and as such goes around the whole TCPA permitted generating station.

The Inspectorate noted, at the last meeting there was discussion about the Red Line Boundary (RLB) and whether this was going to be extended, the Inspectorate queried if this was still the case. The Applicant confirmed it is extending the RLB to cover the pipelines and the cooling tower primarily for consent to operate it.

The Inspectorate queried the status of any Environmental Permits that would be required for the TCPA permission and / or the DCO. The Applicant stated that there would be some partial transfer of existing permits into a new permit for the DCO scheme and that they were in discussions with the Environment Agency and that the position would be set out in a separate “other consents and licenses” document as part of the DCO application. The Applicant noted it wants to keep things administratively simple for SBC and as such, it looked at the existing planning conditions attached to the TCPA permission, and the need for duplicate Requirements in the DCO. The Applicant stated it was intending to apply some of the conditions as part of the DCO requirements by reference back to the TCPA permission. The Applicant outlined their position that there are no new impacts arising from the extension and nothing new that needs to be added in terms of additional requirements in the DCO.

The Inspectorate highlighted that the proposed DCO requirements refer to the TCPA permission condition as opposed to putting the actual wording of the conditions into the DCO. The Inspectorate queried the benefit and legality of this approach. The Applicant stated there are two main advantages identified. The Applicant noted this approach provides SBC with confidence that the relevant TCPA permission conditions will apply also to the DCO. The draft DCO is drafted such that the requirements follow and track any future variations to the TCPA permission conditions. This is also considered to be proportionate given the scale of the extension.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant if it takes this approach, to explain it clearly in the explanatory note that accompanies the DCO, and it could potentially review specific issues like this at draft document stage. The Inspectorate also queried whether this approach would be appropriate i.e. whereby variations to the TCPA permission (or conditions) could effectively alter the DCO (materially or non-materially).

The Applicant confirmed it is not currently looking to change anything under the TCPA permission. The Applicant confirmed that the same approach will be taken with the s106 agreement. A Deed of Variation would be drawn up to confirm that the s106 applies to the TCPA permission and the DCO.

Summary of the Stage two consultation

The Applicant confirmed that it had agreed a Statement of Community Consultation with SBC in March 2022. It explained its Stage two Consultation ran from 5 May 22 to 17 June 22. The Applicant stated as part of the consultation it put forward the draft Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) for comment. The Applicant explained it posted 6500 letters to an agreed consultation radius, it held two in person events, two webinars and an online portal. The Applicant noted it didn't receive a vast number of responses and nobody attended the webinars. The Applicant stated it received around 15-20 feedback forms. The Applicant confirmed it will detail the consultation information in the consultation report.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to make it clear the project is the extension to the already permitted generating station and not an application for the whole plant. The Applicant confirmed it was very clear that the proposed project is an extension.

The Inspectorate queried if the Applicant is still meeting with the local liaison group. The Applicant confirmed it had a meeting in May and its next meeting is September.

The Inspectorate queried if the Applicant is planning more consultation. The Applicant explained it has no current plans for additional consultation at this time.

Programme Update

The Applicant confirmed it is on track to submit mid-September 2022 and its key driver to do so is so it can deliver the works within the current construction period for the TCPA permitted generating station. The Applicant noted if the DCO application was submitted significantly later the project will have to be delivered separately to the current construction. The Applicant confirmed the ES highlights this.

The Inspectorate advised that if the Applicant intends to submit any draft documents, it will be a tight turnaround for DCO submission mid-September. The Applicant noted this and suggested submitting draft documents in two packages to help speed up review periods.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- The Inspectorate and the Applicant to arrange a Project Update Meeting for the beginning of September.
- Applicant to provide the Inspectorate with the latest Red Line Boundary.

