



National Infrastructure
Planning
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To the Applicant and Marine
Management Organisation

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN10131

Date: 08 November 2022

Dear Sir/ Madam

**Planning Act 2008 – section 89; and The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 17**

**Application by Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd for an Order Granting
Development Consent for the Gate Burton Energy Park**

Request for Further Information

I write to request further information from the Applicant and Marine Management Organisation under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

I refer to the Deemed Marine Licence, which is currently included in the draft Development Consent Order, and the Grid Connection Construction Method Statement [APP-114] which sets out the methodology to be employed for Horizontal Direct Drilling (HDD). This does not appear to include potential for issues or problems arising during construction or operation e.g the HDD being stuck during drilling or cabling during pulling through, such that may require intervention including seeking to directly access the bored tunnel to retrieve the Drill head etc potentially including digging a pit within the exclusion zones or requiring access pits if there is a failure of the cable during operation. I require the Applicant and MMO to consider and comment with reasoning on the following:

- Whether such a scenario has been considered and assessed including the potential likely environmental effects that may result and where this is addressed in the Environmental Statement.
- If it has not, the Applicant to provide a risk assessment along with any necessary assessment of environmental effects to the marine environment that may follow and identify any mitigation measures that would be necessary.
- How would the Applicant address such an incident without carrying out works within the area that may be within the exclusion zone for the River Trent.

- Are such interventions if required covered by the Deemed Marine Licence or would further description need to be included within the DML.
- The MMO has suggested the Applicant could apply for a standard Marine licence if the previously suggested exemption was not available at the point of construction how would this affect the Applicant's development timetable in terms of time and cost in a standard HHD operation where no incidents arose. Also if such a scenario as described above in the context of failure of the drilling or cabling arose to what extent would a requirement to apply for a Marine Licence add to the delay and potential costs and would this affect the viability of the scheme.
- The MMO to comment specifically on how the abovementioned failure scenario would affect its position in respect of the necessity for a DML and any conditions that would be required and whether such ancillary activities would be covered by the previously identified exemption.
- Should the dDCO not include a Deemed Marine Licence what would the MMO's expected decision time on an application for a standard marine licence be.

A response should be provided at **Deadline 5 (Monday 20 November 2022)**.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Case Team using the email address above.

Yours faithfully

Ken Stone

Examining Authority

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