

Meeting note

Project name	Rivenhall Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMF)
File reference	EN010138
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	11 November 2021
Meeting with	Indaver RPS Herbert Smith Freehills
Venue	Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting objectives	Induction Project 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.

Introduction

The Applicant introduced itself and the rest of the development team. Indaver is a leader in the field of sustainable waste management, managing over 5 million tonnes of waste material and operating in over 7 countries. The rest of the team is comprised of RPS as the planning and environmental advisors, and Herbert Smith Freehills as legal advisors.

Proposed development

The development site has planning permission under the Town and County Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) for an Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMF) that produces energy from waste (EfW) together with other waste management processes.

Its location is the former Rivenhall Airfield and current quarry, north of the village of Rivenhall and south east of Braintree in the county of Essex.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it acquired the project from Gent Fairhead & Co (GFC, previous owner and promoter of the IWMF) in 2021. Ground works have been undergoing on the site since February 2021 but it is not expected to start building structures until late 2022 or 2023, and be commissioned until the end of 2025.

The Applicant proposes to increase the energy production from below 50 megawatts (MW) to 60-65 MW, triggering the need for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

This increase in productivity will be achieved by using better, more modern technology, requiring no increase in waste throughput. This would be achieved with engineering

works internal to the facility's buildings. For this reason, the Applicant confirmed that no physical change will be undertaken to the consented building envelope of the facility for the purpose of the power upgrade.

The Inspectorate queried whether there were any environmental issues that are still present on the site. The Applicant responded that no outstanding significant effects were present on the site as the IWMF has been subject to EIA and has received planning consent.

The Applicant questioned the Inspectorate on how these types of projects were managed, as no decisions have been given to projects like this yet. The Inspectorate advised to open communication with BEIS.

The Applicant shared a description and visual of the two different types of works that will be carried out, depending on the timing of the consent. If the DCO is granted before construction, work 1 would be implemented, allowing the site to operate at a capacity of 60-65 MW. If the DCO is not granted when the construction is completed, the capacity of the IWMF will initially be limited to 50 MW and then work 2 to provide 60-65 MW capacity will be implemented at a later stage following grant of the DCO.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping and Environmental Constraints

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that they were planning on submitting an Environmental Statement (ES) as part of their DCO. The Inspectorate asked the Applicant if there were any residual significant effects arising from the previous ES. The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that the previous ES was prepared by the previous promoter/site owner and referenced transport, emissions and landscape matters as key themes addressed by the previous planning process but that the proposed extension would have limited additional effect over and above that assessed for the previously consented development.

The scope of assessment necessary to support the proposed application was discussed and the Inspectorate queried whether it was necessary to rescope in light of the previous consent. The Applicant considered that scoping was necessary and would submit a request in the New Year. The Inspectorate asked what the Applicant intended to cover in its scope of assessment. The Applicant stated that it intended to scope out an assessment of any already existing infrastructure developed under the previous consent, including the impacts of the construction and focus on the extension elements and revised operations. The Inspectorate noted that previous advice had been issued in respect of the Kemsley project that could be of relevance to inform the scope of assessment.

The Inspectorate noted that a similar project was due to scope prior to Christmas. **Post meeting note:** A request to scope Slough Multifuel project was received on 17 November 2021.

Associated development

The IWMF planning permission includes consent for several waste management processes within the site in addition to the EfW generating station. The Applicant may also seek consent for the following changes or alternatives to the waste management

processes as associated development. These would remain within the consented building envelopes:

- An incinerator bottom ash facility with metal recovery
- Bulky waste pre-processing facility
- Heat Distribution facility
- Land set aside for carbon capture infrastructure (potentially outside the existing building envelopes)

The Inspectorate queried how the TCPA permission and the DCO would interact with each other in the application, and in particular the drafting of the DCO. The Applicant summarised that the consent for the engineering work would be included in the DCO while the construction of the IWMF including EfW will fall under the TCPA, as this is already in progress. The Inspectorate queried what would happen to commitments (i.e. conditions) in the existing TCPA consent. The Applicant indicated that these would transfer to the DCO as requirements where appropriate, although the Applicant stated that it was considering whether certain of these should be modified in discussion with the local planning authority (Essex County Council).

Project Programme

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that an EIA Scoping Request will be submitted in early 2022 and that a DCO application is proposed to be submitted by the end of 2022.

A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) is being developed for agreement with local authorities in 2022.

Compulsory Acquisition

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that there were no compulsory acquisition nor Crown Land issues. The Inspectorate advised that even when there are no land acquisitions, a Book of Reference should still be submitted as defined in the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.

Practical arrangements

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that a website had been published for the project (<http://www.rivenhall-iwmf.co.uk/>).

The Inspectorate informed the Applicant of the need to fill out a template with the Applicant's information to set up the project on the National Infrastructure website. **Post Meeting Note:** The template has been completed by the Applicant.