

Meeting note

Project name	Rivenhall IWMF and Energy Centre
File reference	EN010138
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	7 March 2023
Meeting with	Indaver, Essex County Council and Braintree District Council
Venue	In person
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting
Circulation	All attendees/ named 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 Overview

The Applicant provided a presentation of the Site Location depicting the Order Limits and Consented Scheme Site Boundary together with a technical infographic of the Energy from Waste (EfW) process at the site.

The Applicant explained its DCO application is for an upgrade to the electricity generator 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 50MW.

The Applicant emphasised that the on/off status of this generator will not affect the activity of the EfW processes. The Applicant explained that there will be no physical works proposed outside consented building envelope, no proposed change in volume or type of input feed and the emissions will be the same as the consented scheme. Additionally, the construction and operational controls provided for the consented scheme will also apply to the DCO application.

The Inspectorate asked why the DCO application is capped specifically at 65MW. The Applicant explained that this figure is calculated to be the maximum output that can be produced by the new generator when the facility is processing the maximum tonnage (595,000 tonnes) of waste.

Overview of key project milestones

The Applicant presented a timeline of the key project milestones: Initial engagement (inc. SoCC, EIA Scoping), Formal consultation (inc. PEIR) and Submission & Examination (inc. sharing draft documents). [Post-meeting update the GIS shapefiles were submitted to The Inspectorate on 16/03/2023]

Overview of approach to consultation

The Applicant stated that the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) was drafted and was to be shared with the Site Liaison Committee (SLC) on 16 March 2023 for any final comments. It also confirmed that the formal consultation on the SoCC will start with the Host Authorities thereafter.

The Applicant stated the community consultation would run for 8 weeks, starting in late in May 2023 and the deposit locations will be: Braintree Council's office, Silver End Library, Kelvedon Library, Oak Store, Coggeshall Library, Witham Library and the visitor centre.

The exhibition venues will be: Silver End Village Hall, Rivenhall Village Hall, Kelvedon Hall and Coggeshall Village Hall. Webinars and attendance at meetings will also be held, upon request.

The Applicant stated that it meets the Host Authorities on a monthly basis, the SLC quarterly, and had met with the Environment Agency. Further meetings were to be scheduled with Natural England and with the Parish Councils.

The Applicant indicated that engagement with other stakeholders ahead of the formal consultation will be dependent on the responses to the EIA scoping request.

Overview of approach to EIA

The Applicant highlighted the legislative EIA context and that the NSIP was considered an 'extension' to existing development under Schedule 1 of Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations and commented that the proposed exceedance of 50MW threshold triggered the DCO requirement.

The Applicant summarised its general EIA approach as follows: assessment against 'future baseline scenario', i.e. future date at which the TCPA-consented <50MW facility is operational; the EIA will assess incremental changes arising from the proposed development (i.e. a 65MW output) compared to the consented facility and the ES will only present the effects of the different/additional effects arising from the installation of enhanced turbine and generator.

The Applicant explained that the topics proposed to be scoped into the EIA will be Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases; and Noise and Vibration as the construction and decommissioning phases will be scoped out as these are not materially changed by installation of different internal generating plant.

The Inspectorate queried the status of any Environmental Permits (EPs) that would be required for the TCPA permission and / or the DCO. The Applicant confirmed that although the EPs are subject to periodic review, they would remain unchanged and due to these EP controls, the assessment of potential air quality effects is to be scoped out of the EIA.

The Applicant stated that other technical aspects (e.g., Flood Risk, Ground Conditions, Transport, Landscape and Visual, Ecology, Waste) were to be scoped out of the EIA as no changes are proposed to consented land take, exterior building structure or facades, access and parking arrangements, or landscaping design; nor were any changes proposed to the volume or type of input feed for the EfW facility.

The Applicant explained that other technical considerations, introduced in the 2017 EIA Regulations such as Major Accidents and Disasters and Human Health, were to be scoped out due to inherent controls in the existing TCPA consent and environmental permit.

The Applicant described that the Cumulative Effects Assessment would comprise: Inter-project effects with other existing development and/or approved development, i.e., TCPA

consented scheme; and Intra-project effects, i.e., effect interactions, scoped out as no in-combination interactions on sensitive receptors in Zone of Influence.

The Inspectorate queried as to how the Scoping Report would be presented. The Applicant responded that the relevant TCPA assessments would be appended to the Scoping Report.

Matters from the Local Authorities

Essex City Council (ECC) queried whether the additional output would be considered more efficient and more sustainable use of the EfW plant. The Applicant confirmed that to be the case.

ECC queried the volume of waste tonnage. The Applicant responded that it would be maximum 595 000 tonnes of waste to be converted into energy.

ECC questioned as to why the air quality was scoped out and suggested that this issue should be clearly explained during the formal consultations. The Applicant responded that there was no change to the emissions and agreed to follow the suggested approach.

The Inspectorate enquired from the LAs regarding their interaction with the Applicant, the SOCC and their potential resourcing issues. The LAs responded that they were content with the SOCC so far, however faced some internal funding and staffing issues.

Matters from the Planning Inspectorate

The Inspectorate made reference to the other NSIPs in the region (Longfield Solar Farm, M25 junction 28 improvements, A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening Scheme, etc) and highlighted some similarities/differences with the [Slough Multifuel Extension Project](#) which is currently being examined.

The Inspectorate advised that the purpose of the DCO application should be explained clearly during formal consultations, and also advised that the application should be clear on how it meets the requirements to be considered an NSIP.

The Inspectorate enquired regarding future improvements in terms of increase of output or battery storage. The Applicant responded that there would be certain (financial/technological) constraints to consider.

The Inspectorate advised that the submission of draft documents was welcome in due course.

Following the project update meeting The Inspectorate's team, together with the LA's representatives, participated in an accompanied site visit.