



Meeting Note

File reference	EN020008, EN020012 and EN020014
Status	Final
Author	Ewa Sherman

Meeting with	SP Energy Networks (SPEN)
Meeting date	19 April 2012
Attendees (Planning Inspectorate)	Kathryn Powell – Senior Case Manager Katherine Chapman – Case Manager Chris White – Case Manager Ewa Sherman – Case Officer Nicola Mathiason – Legal Manager Alison Down – EIA and Land Rights Adviser Andrew Luke – Senior EIA and Land Rights Adviser
Attendees (non Planning Inspectorate)	Claire Duffy – SPEN Steven Edwards - SPEN
Location	MR 303, The Planning Inspectorate, Bristol

Meeting purpose	Update on the following proposals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mid Wales Electricity Connections EN020008- Warrington West Realignments EN020012- North Wales Wind Farms Connection EN0200014
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Summary of key points discussed and advice given	<p>Introductions of the attendees.</p> <p>Confirmation that the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) has been abolished and its functions have been transferred to the National Infrastructure Directorate within the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>The Planning Act 2008 as amended (PA 2008) process– presentation printout circulated, (presentation link).</p> <p>Explanation of the process as a whole, and the nature of the examination process which is inquisitorial, based on evidence, mostly written, being put forward. The Planning Inspectorate is able to give advice about making an application or representations, however this does not constitute legal advice, and developers are encouraged to seek their own legal advice.</p> <p>The Secretary of State issues guidance (currently under consultation), and the Planning Inspectorate issues national infrastructure Advice Notes which have been updated to reflect recent changes.</p> <p>Advice was provided on the changed definition of a local</p>
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authority (s43 of the PA 2008) regarding the identification of A, B, C and D authorities.

Examining Inspectors will make a recommendation on Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects to the relevant Secretary of State who will make a decision. There are now two distinct / different roles of the Planning Inspectorate: dealing with appeals and casework under the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) and other legislation; and making recommendations to the Secretary of State on Development Consent Order (DCO) applications, following the abolition of the IPC and transfer of its role to the Planning Inspectorate.

Mid Wales Electricity Connections update:

SPEN gave an update on consultation, connections and programme for the project. The initial proposals comprise three proposed shared 132kV connections as detailed below;

1) a double circuit 132kV from wind farms in the general area around Sychton,

2) a single circuit 132kV from wind farms in the Carno-Rhyd area and

3) a single circuit 132kV connection from wind farms in the Llanbadarn Fynydd area.

These connections would connect into a proposed 400kV National Grid (NG) substation. The project also involves additional individual connections to the wind farms from the shared connections (132kV), possibly via connector substations.

SPEN is working with NG which will also be providing an update to the Planning Inspectorate shortly. There are separate commercial and planning responsibilities between SPEN and NG and announcements will be made in early May 2012.

SPEN provided a copy of their Newsletter sent to consultees in December 2011, focusing on feedback, key issues and next steps.

In May / June 2012 SPEN will hold information events following their decision on the preferred route corridor. Environmental constraint information and a non-technical summary will also be provided in May/June 2012. SPEN to inform the Planning Inspectorate in advance of the information events.

SPEN's provisional consultation timetable is as follows:

- EIA Scoping – late 2012/early 2013, ideally on a 100m corridor. The Planning Inspectorate advised that if they

were to scope on different options, SPEN should consider the effectiveness of the exercise and the need to provide enough detail to usefully inform the process, and the need to clearly identify where the scope and approach to assessment differs for the options provided. Furthermore, the worst case would need to be assessed for both options.

- Consultation late 2012/early 2013; to comply with the statutory requirements set out in s42, s47 and s48 of the PA 2008.
- Submission of application Q4 of 2013.

Warrington West Realignment update:

Recent local community consultation for the substation location was carried out in January 2012.

The project involves the realignment of the existing overhead lines to a proposed new substation which results in 3 new overhead line spans and 5 new towers, and the removal of an existing tower. SPEN confirmed that they are to make a planning application to Warrington Borough Council for the substation, which SPEN consider not to be a NSIP.

SPEN consider the 132kV overhead lines would comprise an NSIP and plan to undertake the s42 and s47 consultation at the end of summer 2012. The proposed submission date for the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate is Q4 in 2012.

North Wales Wind Farm Connection: Introduction to project, outline of scope of project and programme.

SPEN outlined the project which involves construction of approximately 26km of a 132kV connection (over and underground) between wind farms in Wales Technical Advice Note (TAN) Area A and a substation, most likely at Brenig; for connection in 2015.

SPEN have agreed to design and build a shared connection with four wind farms in the Denbigh area; Clocaenog; Brenig; Derwedd Bach; and Nant Bach. The first will be the subject of a DCO application, the latter three all have local planning authority (LPA) consent.

SPEN are in the process of writing a strategic options report (for the two connection options under consideration) and will carry out initial consultation. Meetings with the following have taken place: Denbighshire County Council, Conwy County Borough

	<p>Council, CADW and the Forestry Commission. In June 2012 a communication consultant will be appointed and an informal consultation will take place. Approximately twenty Community Councils will be invited to the public consultation events due to a substantial interest in the scheme. The Planning Inspectorate advised that the terminology used in the Statement of Community Consultation should make clear to members of the public the differences between 'informal' and 'formal' consultation.</p> <p>There are different stages of consultation and publicity and the Planning Inspectorate reminded SPEN of the consultation and publicity under s42, s47 and s48 of the PA 2008, including the duty to take account of relevant responses (s49). SPEN confirmed that consultation will comprise various events throughout the area, on three broad corridor options. In summer 2012 environmental studies will be carried out, followed by a second (formal) consultation due to start in autumn 2012. EIA Scoping is planned for early 2013, and submission of a DCO application in summer 2013.</p>
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Specific decisions/ follow up required?	The Planning Inspectorate to email links regarding transitional arrangements to SPEN.
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Circulation List	All attendees