



Meeting note

File reference	EN030002
Status	Final
Author	Steven Parker
Date	11 September 2014
Meeting with	Keuper Gas Storage Ltd
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Tom Carpen Steven Parker Richard Kent Keuper Gas Storage Ltd Richard Stevenson Dave Peterson Lewis Jones Rosanne McGuigan Paul Zyda Jonathan Leary Victoria Longmore
Meeting objectives	For the developer to update the Planning Inspectorate on the progress of their project
Circulation	All Attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Introduction

The Planning Inspectorate outlined its openness policy and ensured the developer understood that any issues discussed and advice given would be recorded and placed on the Inspectorate's website under s.51 of the Planning Act 2008. Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the developer (or others) can rely.

Actions from previous teleconference

The applicant confirmed that the Inspectorate had provided comments on their draft Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC).

The Inspectorate confirmed that the applicant has submitted their interim Consultation Report (CR) but that it would be helpful to have the corresponding appendices; the applicant confirmed that these were being prepared and would be sent.

The Inspectorate advised that it should be able to make comments on the interim CR within three weeks; the applicant added that it would be helpful to have the comments by the last week of September, ahead of the launch of the statutory consultation period.

Project update

Keuper Gas Storage Ltd (KGSL) has been focusing on their Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), environmental studies and preparation for the statutory consultation stage. KGSL confirmed that the design and location of project infrastructure has been finalised and that drawings to support the application are being prepared.

The applicant stated that they were awaiting a response from National Grid Gas (NGG) regarding the gas connection. The applicant explained that NGG's response could have knock-on effects to time scales, if upgrades are required which necessitated considerable works to be carried out. The applicant are working with NGG to secure a formal opinion; however, at this time they are keeping to their original programme of works.

Program – Key dates and deliverables

The applicant confirmed that they were still on target for submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application in January / February 2015, subject to the gas connection matter being resolved.

The applicant enquired after the Planning Inspectorate's 'model application documents'. These are examples of documents which the Planning Inspectorate considers to be 'good' documentation, in terms that the style, format or approach used is one that others may benefit from using. The Planning Inspectorate advised that these would be published on the website and documents could only be considered once applications had been through the full DCO process.

Environmental Statement and Habitats Regulations Assessment

The applicant explained that all survey work had now been completed with the exception of a further bat survey for the main cavity area, and an otter and water vole survey for Puddinglake Brook, which were all scheduled for September.

The applicant confirmed that their PEIR was progressing and was on track for the statutory consultation period in October.

The Inspectorate requested an update on the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA), with regard to brine outfall. The applicant explained that the Environment Agency (EA) does not require any further assessment, further to that carried out for discharge requirements in the environmental permit; therefore no HRA was being progressed at this stage.

The Planning Inspectorate advised that the applicant should have regard to Advice Note ten: Habitat Regulations Assessment relevant to nationally significant infrastructure projects. A no significant effects report should be produced, taking in to consideration responses received following consultation.

The applicant was advised that it was important to provide justification on the approach taken and that if a new permit were required, this would be needed before any application for a DCO.

Consultation

The applicant confirmed that statutory consultation was scheduled to launch on 2 October 2015. Public exhibitions will be held at five venues in the weeks commencing 13 & 20 October.

The applicant is producing a non-technical summary document to be made available at the exhibitions.

The Planning Inspectorate advised that it was important to make the most of the responses received from the Local Authorities and that it was important to be ready to respond to members of the public who ask for specific information and to use this process to listen and deal with each point raised.

The applicant explained that all consultation documents would be provided on the project's website and that there was a freepost and Freephone number for those that wanted to request further information.

The applicant sought clarification on how the changes to the red line boundary should be presented during statutory consultation. The Planning Inspectorate advised that it would be helpful to show the old and new boundaries to show how the project has evolved, but that it must be clearly what the lines represent.

Procedural Matters

The applicant is still in discussion with third party land owners and explained that it was still necessary to include powers seeking compulsory acquisition. The Planning Inspectorate confirmed that this was an acceptable approach.

Consents Management Plan

The applicant confirmed that the consents were progressing in accordance with the consents management plan and that an application was in process for a European Protected Species licence. The applicant is aiming to submit this application in October, with the expectation of getting a letter of no impediment by January 2015.

Update on other Matters

The applicant asked when the Planning Inspectorate would like to visit the site. The Planning Inspectorate suggested a meeting in late October – early November, following statutory consultation, would be helpful and that a further round table meeting between KGSL, the local authorities and the Inspectorate could tie-in with the visit.

The Inspectorate requested if the visit could take in Runcorn. The applicant stated that this was fine and that they have produced a draft itinerary and suggested route maps for the visit and will send these to the Planning Inspectorate once finalised. The applicant asked if it was appropriate for them to provide a mini-bus for the visit. The Inspectorate confirmed that this was acceptable provided this was made clear in the meeting note.

The Inspectorate explained that the Department of Communities and Local Government had updated its pre-application guidance in response to comments received. This amended guidance suggests that applications should be published at submission rather than acceptance if the applicant gives consent. The applicant confirmed that they would consider this point in due course.

Any Other Business

The next teleconference is scheduled for 16 October 2014.