

Meeting Note

File reference	EN60001 Willington C – Gas Pipeline project
Status	Final
Author	Jolyon Wootton

Meeting with	RWE Npower, RPC, Bruton Knowles
Meeting date	22 March 2012
Attendees (IPC)	Simone Wilding (Principal Case Manager) Nicola Mathiason (Lawyer) Jolyon Wootton (Case Officer)
Attendees (non IPC)	Hugh Morris (RWE Npower) Adriana Gasparini (RWE Npower) Dave Tate (RWE Npower) Karen Howard (RPC, legal advisors) William Simms (Bruton Knowles, land agents)
Location	IPC offices, Bristol

Meeting purpose	Pre-application update meeting
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Summary of key points discussed and advice given	<p>RWE Npower, RPC and Bruton Knowles were previously advised of the Infrastructure Planning Commission's (IPC) openness policy (that any advice given will be recorded and placed on the IPC's website under s.51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the Act) and that any advice given does not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) can rely).</p> <p><i>Project update</i></p> <p>RWE Npower reported that they have informally consulted the main statutory consultees including the local authorities on the draft Environmental Statement (ES) giving them 3 months to comment on the document. At the same time they provided a set of draft requirements to the regulators and held a meeting with all the local authorities to agree as much as possible.</p> <p>Each of the two B authorities have now taken a report on the draft application to the relevant committees and put delegated powers in place to be able to deal with tight statutory time frames. RWE's intention is to include a table of comments in the ES which reflects how responses from consultation bodies have been addressed.</p> <p>For issues which need a separate consent outside the DCO RWE Npower is seeking to obtain 'minded to approve letters' from the relevant regulators in advance of the application's</p>
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submission. So far RWE have received such a letter from the Highways Agency. Substantial progress has been made with Natural England and the Environment Agency (EA). However, the EA does not in principle provide 'minded to approve letters'.

RWE explained that they are making good progress in working with landowners to acquire rights over land by agreement. Their intention is continuing this work right up to submission of the application to minimise any compulsory acquisition of land needing to be included in the application.

RWE Npower is currently preparing for the formal stage 2 consultation. Their intention is to provide all draft application documents (except for the consultation report) during Stage 2 consultation and to allow one month for consultees to respond.

RWE Npower anticipates that their Consultation report would be segmented into 4 parts, covering landowners, public, statutory consultees, and those outside formal consultation. The IPC urged the promoter to follow Advice Note 13 for best practice.

DCO, requirements, and Book of Reference

Following the structure of the draft DCO the IPC asked for clarification and/or provided advice on several articles and requirements as set out in the attached letter.

RWE will need to ensure the draft DCO includes all the powers necessary to carry out the project and secure the required mitigation in accordance with the Environmental Statement (ES).

The IPC explained that DCLG is about to publish imminently a consultation draft of all their guidance documents pertaining to the 2008 Planning Act regime, including on associated development. It was further explained that DCLG's intention is to finalise and publish the revised guidance in July 2012.

IPC transfer

The IPC explained that the Localism Act 2011 as it relates to national infrastructure comes into effect on 1 April 2012. Consequently the IPC would cease to exist from that day and its functions seamlessly transferred to the Planning Inspectorate. Advice Notes and information about projects currently on the IPC web-site would still be available from 1 April, transferred onto the Planning Portal website.

The IPC further advised that the IPC's Guidance Note 1, will be removed, as the National Infrastructure Directorate will not have powers to issue statutory guidance under PA2008 as amended by the Localism Act.

Specific decisions/ follow up required?	IPC to provide written comments on the draft DCO by mid-April 2012. RWE to advise Planning Inspectorate of revised likely submission date.
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Circulation List	Attendees