

# Southampton to London Pipeline Project

## Volume 1

Cover Letter

Application Document: 1.1

Planning Inspectorate Reference Number: EN070005

APFP Regulation No. 5(2)(q)

Revision No. 1.0

May 2019



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The Secretary of State  
c/o The Planning Inspectorate  
Major Applications and Plans Directorate,  
Temple Quay House  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

14 May 2019

FAO: Mr Hefin Jones, Case Manager

Dear Mr Jones,

**Planning Act 2008**  
**Esso Petroleum Company, Limited**  
**The proposed Southampton to London Pipeline Development Consent Order**  
**Planning Inspectorate Reference Number: EN070005**

Please find enclosed an application from Esso Petroleum Company, Limited (Esso) under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for development consent for the Southampton to London Pipeline Project. The project is a proposed replacement aviation fuel transportation pipeline. This is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project as defined under section 14(1)(g) of the Planning Act 2008. The project meets each of the relevant qualifying criteria in section 21(1) of the 2008 Act.

### **1. Subject of the Application**

In December 2017, we (Esso) began to talk publicly about our intention to replace 90km of our 105km aviation fuel pipeline that runs from our Fawley Refinery near Southampton to our West London Terminal storage facility in Hounslow (the project). The refinery, and its supporting pipeline network, is vital in supporting secure supplies of fuel and other petroleum products for millions of British consumers. The 90km existing section to be replaced will consist of 97km of new pipeline.

This pipeline will help to maintain more than 1,000 jobs at the UK's largest refinery at Fawley, in Hampshire. It also provides fuel to some of the UK's busiest airports and contributes significantly to the regional economy and national infrastructure. Pipelines are a safe way to transport fuel. This pipeline will continue to keep around 100 road tankers off the road every day based on Esso's 2015 data for its existing pipeline. Once installed, the pipeline will be buried underground and would not be noticed by most people.

The Southampton to London Pipeline replacement project comprises:

- 97km of new steel pipeline, approximately 300mm in diameter;

- a new “pigging” station at Boorley Green to allow the entry and exit points for Pipeline Inspection Gauges or ‘PIGs’ from time to time;
- 14 remotely-operated in-line valves along the pipeline to allow isolation of sections of pipeline for maintenance or in case of emergency;
- a Pressure Transducer (PT), to monitor pressure;
- six new above ground cathodic protection (CP) transformer rectifier cabinets to supply power to the existing CP system;
- pipeline markers along the route at all road crossings and boundaries and new red and black colour-coded flight marker posts to track the pipeline route when inspected by helicopter; and
- modifications to the pigging station at the Esso West London Terminal storage facility including installation of a new PIG receiver and connection to the replacement pipeline.

The pipeline would largely be installed in open cut trenches at least 1.2m deep. In some locations, the pipeline would be installed using trenchless methods. ‘Trenchless crossings’ would be used to avoid impacting important features such as major roads or rivers and may be considerably deeper than open cut sections.

Temporary infrastructure would be required to install the pipeline. This includes:

- up to six logistics hubs which would be placed at strategic locations and used for pipe storage and distribution as well as providing site offices for workers;
- construction compounds close to the route and used for storing equipment, providing staff facilities, and laying down pieces of the pipeline and equipment; and
- access tracks to link the pipeline installation areas with the local road network.

## 2. Documentation and application fee

The Planning Inspectorate has previously confirmed that it will accept digital submission for this application without hard copies. We therefore enclose six USB 3.0 memory sticks, each containing the complete application.

Paragraph 119 of the DCLG document “*Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the Pre-Application Process*” indicates that “*To help everyone become familiar with the detail of what is being proposed in an application, provided the applicant agrees, the Planning Inspectorate will make application documents available on the relevant project page of the National Infrastructure portal as soon as practicable upon submission*”. In order to help everyone become familiar with the application documentation we confirm that we agree with the application being made available in this way as soon as practical. Appendix 7.6 of the Environmental Statement should not be published.

The fee to accompany the application of £7,106 was paid by BACS on 3 May 2019.



A GIS Shapefile of the land over which authorisation is sought within the application was submitted on 1 May 2019.

### 3. Application formalities

The application is made in accordance with section 37 of the Planning Act 2008, the applicable regulations (including the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009), relevant guidance (including Planning Act 2008: application form guidance) and relevant advice notes (including Advice Note Six: preparation and submission of application documents).

Included in the application package is the Navigation Document (**application document 1.5**), which provides an accessible guide to the application. We are happy to update that during the examination if the Examining Authority finds this helpful.

We note the Secretary of State's requirement under Section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 to decide whether to accept this application by the end of the period of 28 days beginning with the day after the day on which this application is received. To assist with this process, please find attached to this Cover Letter a completed Section 55 Checklist (**application document 1.6**) detailing compliance with the criteria set out in s55 of the Planning Act 2008.

The draft DCO includes powers of compulsory acquisition in respect of land that is required for the Project. Esso is actively negotiating voluntary agreements for easement rights required for the pipeline and any land required for valves or other associated facilities. Esso's land agents have issued offers of terms to all affected landowners, and it is anticipated that a large proportion of the voluntary agreements required will be concluded or at an advanced stage of negotiation prior to the Preliminary Meeting.

### 4. Alternatives within the application

The works plans and land plans submitted as part of the application show two alternative routing options on sheets 10 and 11 in the vicinity of the Hinton Ampner National Trust Site. This was to allow us to assess in the application documentation an option on land that the National Trust held inalienably and one that did not utilise National Trust land. Discussions are progressing well with the National Trust and we would anticipate being able to withdraw one of the options around the time of the Preliminary Meeting.

### 5. Habitats Regulations Assessment

The application documents include a Habitats Regulations Assessment Report (**application document 6.5**) which reports any impacts on European sites under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the Habitats Regulations) and enables an appropriate assessment of the implications to be made by the Planning Inspectorate. A draft of this report has been shared with Natural England and their comments taken into account in the final submission document.

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Southampton to London  
Pipeline Project

## 6. Correspondence

All future correspondence about this application should be addressed to our agents, Jacobs, as set out on the application form. Please contact Ian Fletcher on landline 01189 467 865 or email [ian.fletcher2@jacobs.com](mailto:ian.fletcher2@jacobs.com)

Please acknowledge safe receipt of this letter and enclosures, and we look forward to receiving confirmation that the application is accepted for examination in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Sunderland  
**Southampton to London Pipeline Project Executive**  
**Global Project Development**  
**ExxonMobil Fuels and Lubricants**  
**SLP Project team**  
**Website: [www.slpproject.co.uk](http://www.slpproject.co.uk)**