



Meeting note

Status	Final
Author	Hannah Pratt
Date	25 May 2016
Meeting with	Environment Agency
Venue	Via teleconference
Attendees	Planning Inspectorate Tom Carpen (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Hannah Pratt (Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor) Environment Agency Carrie Williams (Senior Advisor, Sustainable Places & Systems) Carol Bolt (Legal Services) Andrew Mozley (Embedding Sustainable Places Manager) Laura Stevenson (Legal Services)
Meeting objectives	Liaison meeting between the Planning Inspectorate and the Environment Agency
Circulation	All attendees

Current DCO applications and possible new applications

The Inspectorate explained that they anticipate the number of DCO applications to be low over the next 12 months. At the time of the meeting, the Silvertown Tunnel had been submitted (post-meeting note: this was accepted for examination on 31 May 2016). The Inspectorate is expecting the M20 Junction 10A to be submitted in summer 2016.

The Inspectorate is not currently expecting any further applications to be made in 2016. However, the Inspectorate is expecting a number of road schemes (arising from the road investment strategy) to be submitted in 2017, along with some offshore wind farms in 2018; however timescales are uncertain at this stage. The Inspectorate is expecting a high volume of pre-application work, including scoping, for these projects in the coming months.

Water Framework Directive and the level of detail design

The Inspectorate queried what level of design information is required by the Environment Agency (EA) in order for the EA to provide assurances during examinations that WFD status will not be affected. The Inspectorate noted that in some recent examinations, detailed design information had been requested by the EA and it would be useful if the EA could give a steer as to what they require for all projects.

The EA explained that it is project specific and dependent on the characteristics of the catchment. In addition, the EA explained that the WFD is also considered in detail when environmental permit applications are assessed. However, the EA agreed to provide further details in their scoping consultation responses in order to provide applicant's with a steer as to what detail would be required.

Invitation to DCO Workshop

The EA agreed to participate in a workshop for small energy applicants to be run by the Inspectorate, DECC and Energy UK.

Consents Service Unit

The EA confirmed that they and Natural England are handling enquiries for the CSU internally.

TCPA appeals

The EA explained that on a recent TCPA appeal, they had been requested by the inspector to attend a hearing, although they had not raised any concerns about the appeal in written representations. The EA attended the hearing however were not asked to participate. The EA raised concerns over the impact this has upon their resourcing and queried whether there is a standard approach to inviting interested parties to appeals. The Inspectorate confirmed that they would look into the matter.

Actions

- The Inspectorate to contact the EA regarding the DCO workshop
- EA to comment on the Inspectorate's draft WFD advice note when ready
- PINS to look into matter regarding EA attendance at hearings for TCPA appeals.