



Meeting note

Project name	Teesside Flexible Regas Port Project
File reference	EN040001
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	24 July 2024
Meeting with	Teesside Flexible Regas Port Limited
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed, and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Project Update

The Applicant outlined that engineering work had continued to take place and the Front-end engineering and design (FEED) study had now been completed. All work was now complete except the detailed routing of the pipeline. The Applicant advised that work is scheduled with a pipeline installation company to undertake the detailed plan of the routing of the pipeline. Following completion of this work, the Applicant advised that it will be able to confirm whether the application to be submitted will be a fixed route or if the submission will provide for optionality based on discussions with operators and landowners. The Applicant advised that it is likely that the statutory consultation will be based on both the current proposed North and South routes.

The Applicant advised that work had been continuing on commercial matters including engaging with PD Ports on creating easement agreements and discussing potential pipeline routes. Further discussions have been held with the Harbour Master providing updates on the project. The Applicant advised that land lease agreement work has continued, and that work remains ongoing on working through the results of the FEED.

The Applicant advised that it had undertaken market consultation with nine responses received from partners seeking to supply into the terminal. The Applicant advised that due to the General Election the Auction process will now be delayed until around Quarter 1 (Q1) / Quarter 2 (Q2) 2025.

The Applicant stated that land referencing and desktop review remained ongoing identifying potential locations where the red line boundary can be reduced and parcels

removed from the order limits. The Applicant confirmed that land interest questionnaires had been distributed to landowners to confirm occupation and tenancy agreements that are in place.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Applicant advised that technical engagement remains ongoing and surveys continue to be undertaken. The Applicant advised that it had undertaken verification surveys in May to support the UKHab surveys that were taken earlier in the year to confirm current outputs and identify if there are any further recommendations for species specific surveys. The Applicant provided an overview of surveys currently being undertaken along with upcoming surveys that are scheduled to take place. It confirmed that it had discussed the timing and method of ecology surveys with Natural England (NE).

The Applicant advised that they had received feedback from Stockton on Tees Borough Council regarding broad locations for noise monitoring surveys. The Applicant further advised that it is planning to undertake traffic surveys at the end of the summer period.

Stakeholder Engagement

The Applicant advised that work had been continuing with the regulatory bodies including Ofgem, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, National Gas Transmission (NGT) and the District Network Operator (DNO). The Applicant advised that engagement with Ofgem had focused upon updating them with the latest Market Consultation results while engagement with NGT had focused on working to confirm that there is sufficient grid entry capacity at Teesside to support full project flows. The Applicant advised that NGT are currently preparing a scope of work and quote for a contracted study to confirm capacity availability for the project along with the adjacent schemes. The Applicant advised that there is sufficient physical capacity within the network for the project however some commercial capacity has been removed from the area which is required to be reinstated.

The Applicant advised that work with the DNO had focused on determining timing for a connection. The Applicant stated that a response had been received indicating that a connection timing would be in approximately six years. The Applicant advised that discussions had taken place regarding how much power would be readily available and the DNO advised that eight megawatts could be provided. The Applicant advised that eight megawatts would not fulfil the project however it provided a baseline for identifying what other sources could be identified within the local areas to increase availability for the project. The Applicant stated that they had been requested to submit an additional DNO request to identify an alternative solution. The Applicant confirmed that this was unlikely to comprise self-generation.

The Applicant advised that it is working with Natural England regarding the land adjacent to the proposed jetty, which is identified as High Priority Mud Flat Habitat and is located within Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area (SPA). The Applicant has identified that the habitat on site may not be equivalent to the habitat protected in the SPA designation. This engagement will inform the Applicant's decision as to which stage it takes the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) to. The Applicant advised that it has drafted a HRA screening report to be sent to Natural England for review. The Applicant

confirmed that a draft report to inform appropriate assessment will also be shared with Natural England prior to submission of the DCO application. Additionally, the Applicant had met with the Site Manager at RSPB Saltholme to provide an understanding of work that is being undertaken in the area in terms of enhancement and habitat creation.

The Applicant stated that it had met with the Office for Nuclear Regulation following comments received in the Scoping Opinion to discuss the Hartlepool Power Station. Additionally, the Applicant had reached out to EDF energy to seek a meeting, however no response had been provided to date.

The Applicant advised that it had not yet been in contact with The Crown Estate and no further engagement had taken place with the Marine Management Organisation. The Applicant advised that they had been in contact with Navigator and the other operators who are expecting to set up a meeting with the Health and Safety Executive to update them on current projects. The Applicant advised that they are working on putting together a plan of how projects in the area are working in conjunction with each other. The Inspectorate advised that it would be helpful to also view this work once available.

Project programme

The Applicant advised that it is anticipating undertaking Statutory Consultation in Autumn 2024 in order to allow for the progression of discussions and allow sufficient time to respond to comments currently being raised. The Inspectorate reminded the Applicant of the recent changes to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure (APFP)) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regulations). The Applicant was further reminded to ensure that the section 46 notification is sent to the Inspectorate before the Statutory Consultation begins.

The Applicant advised that due to the delay in Statutory Consultation taking place, the overall project submission had now been delayed until Q1 2025. The Applicant was advised that if seeking draft document review, sufficient time should be built into the project timetable to respond to feedback that is provided by the Inspectorate.

Post Meeting Note:

The Applicant advised that a post meeting review of the project programme was held following responses received to market consultation, engagement with Ofgem and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, and the change in UK government. The Applicant confirmed that the programme has since been amended; the dates of the proposed statutory consultation will now take place in Q1 2025, with an anticipated application submission in Q3 2025, thereby extending the programme beyond the dates discussed at the Project Update Meeting. The Applicant further advised that baseline surveys will continue to be undertaken during this time along with engagement with stakeholders.