

Meeting note

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| Project name | Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station |
| File reference | EN0110011 |
| Status | FINAL |
| Author | The Planning Inspectorate |
| Date | 9 September 2024 |
| Meeting with | SSE Hydrogen Developments Limited |
| Venue | Microsoft Teams |
| Meeting objectives | Project Inception 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.

The Inspectorate explained that the publication of the meeting note could be delayed up to six months, if required by the developer for commercial confidentiality/ sensitivity reasons, or until a formal scoping request had been submitted.

Overview/ Key Features

The Applicant provided an overview of the project which included:

- A 100% hydrogen ready/enabled single or multiple gas turbine power plant, with up to 1.2GW output capacity.
- The power plant is situated on the site of a previous coal-fired power station and adjacent to two energy from waste plants on which a proposed NSIP, the Enfinium Energy from Waste carbon capture plant, is being developed.
- The plant would to comply with Carbon Capture Readiness & Hydrogen readiness tests of the upcoming Decarbonisation readiness requirements (DRR).

The plant will be designed to run on 100% hydrogen fuel from the outset of operations. However, it may be required to run on natural gas or a blend of hydrogen and natural gas until a resilient hydrogen supply becomes available. Once there is a secure supply of commercially viable hydrogen and associated infrastructure, the Proposed Development will seek to transition to 100% hydrogen firing.

Infrastructure included;

- Hydrogen connection and blending infrastructure.
- Gas pipeline (up to 10km) to connected with National Gas Feeder 29 pipeline.
- Connections for water supply, electricity export and utilities.
- Construction/operational laydown areas, access and ancillary development.

The applicant noted that the government's hydrogen strategy sets out a roadmap for developing the UK's hydrogen production capacity and use of hydrogen for power generation between now and 2035.

Carbon Capture & Decarbonisation options

The Applicant confirmed that space would be reserved to meet current carbon capture readiness ('CCR') regulatory requirements, but hydrogen is the proposed and preferred decarbonisation route and the Applicant expects the forthcoming Hydrogen Readiness Requirements in the Decarbonisation Readiness Guidance (not yet published) to replace the extant CCR regulations.

The Applicant noted there is currently no carbon transport and storage infrastructure proposed in this area, and a rail carbon transportation option is unlikely to be viable given the greater volumes that would be generated by the power station compared to energy from waste CCS retrofit proposals.

Stack Heights and Cooling

The Applicant stated the previous coal-fired power station stacks were 198m tall. The existing neighbouring Enfield Energy from Waste plant are approximately 100-120m tall, while the proposed next generation power station stacks were predicted to be approximately 90m tall. However, the Applicant stated that the stacks could be slightly higher due to ammonia slip and nitrogen deposition effects on designated habitats up to 15km from the Proposed Development. The Applicant intended to use an appropriate model to assess the required stack height.

The Applicant stated a technical preference to use wet cooling due to the increased efficiency compared to an air-cooled system, subject to water availability and the relevant plume dispersion studies. The Applicant plans to assess the availability of water and the ability to discharge used cooling water appropriately into the river. The Applicant would need to re-apply for an abstraction licence.

EIA Scoping

The Applicant stated that the EIA Scoping Report was being drafted. It would employ a Rochdale envelope approach. The Applicant will seek engagement from the Environment Agency on air quality/ Best Available Technology assessment, water abstraction and consideration of cumulatives.

Consultation Plans

The Applicant's consultation plans included;

- A stakeholder engagement plan in development, including a thorough consultation process .

- Inception meetings have already been held with Wakefield Metropolitan District and North Yorkshire Council officers to introduce the project.
- Engagement with key statutory bodies and the re-establishment of the Ferrybridge Community Liaison Group.
- A regularly updated dedicated project website which would go live after Scoping.

The Applicant intends to help communities to understand the benefits of hydrogen as a fuel and why a gas supply could be needed prior to a resilient hydrogen supply being available. The Planning Inspectorate advised that the Applicant should consider the timing of consultations for nearby projects and seek to avoid overlaps where possible. This would assist Local Authorities and members of the public who wish to attend, engage in the projects and avoid consultation fatigue.

Current Service Package

The Applicant had requested the basic pre-application service tier, but this may be reviewed after the Scoping exercise has been completed. The Inspectorate advised that the Pre-Application Prospectus explains that an applicant must provide at least three months' written notice of a request to change tier, and that this should be built into an applicant's Programme Document.

The Inspectorate would confirm the tier that the project would follow within 28 days of the Inception Meeting. (**Post Meeting Note:** this has been confirmed).

The Applicant queried whether the invoice would document the hours worked. The Inspectorate advised that the level of detail to be included in the invoicing will be confirmed in due course.