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Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010011

Date: 29 January 2014

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning  
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 17 and Rule 8(3)**

**Application by Central Bedfordshire Council for an Order Granting  
Development Consent for the Woodside Connection Houghton Regis  
Bedfordshire**

**Request for further information and notification of variation of the  
examination timetable**

In the light of the content of the written submissions received from the interested parties to date, together with the oral submissions made at the recent hearings, I have decided to deal with the outstanding matters before me by way of a written procedure rather than by way of any further hearings. Accordingly I request that the relevant named parties provide further information in response to the attached questions in Annex A, which are put under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

Responses should be submitted by **Wednesday 5 February 2014**.

On this basis it will not be necessary to take up the 'reserve' hearing dates of 25 and 26 February 2014 which were set aside in the examination timetable to cater for the eventuality that further hearings might be needed.

Further to the examination timetable contained in Annex C of my letter of 15 October 2013 ('the Rule 8 letter'), a variation of the timetable has been made under Rule 8(3) and this is contained in Annex B of this letter at item 16, 17, 18 and 19.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

*Glyn Roberts*

Glyn Roberts

**Examining Authority**

**Annexes:**

A. The ExA's request for further information

B. Amended examination timetable

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

**ANNEX A – The Examining Authorities request for further information put under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.**

Q No:	Question to:	Question:
1	<b>UK Power Networks Limited (UKPN)</b>	<p>Given that the Woodside Link DCO examination is required by law to be closed before 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and may be closed before that date, can UK Power Networks Ltd confirm that it is content with the wording of the latest draft Woodside Link Development Consent order, including any relevant Protective Provisions included in the Order? If it is not content with the current wording of the Order can it confirm its position and advance any alternative or additional wording proposed?</p> <p><b>Note:</b> If UKPN is negotiating any side agreements which do not affect the wording of the order but are considered essential to the UKPN acceptance of the current wording within the draft DCO, this should be made clear in UKPN's written response.</p>
2	<b>Applicant, Highways Agency, Friends Life Company Limited and Lands Improvement Holdings Limited</b>	<p>It is understood from various submissions by Central Bedfordshire Council (the Applicant in the Woodside Link DCO examination), the Highways Agency and the Houghton Regis North Consortium (Friends Life Company Ltd and Lands Improvement Holdings Ltd) that discussions are underway between these parties regarding agreements intended to deal with certain matters involved with the practical interface between these projects.</p> <p>The Examining Authority needs to understand any practical implications arising from these agreements that may have implications for the wording of the order, including order provisions and requirements. Accordingly, the ExA requests that the parties confirm the broad content of the agreements in writing by 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014, highlighting any aspects that may have implications for the content or wording of the Order.</p>
3	<b>Applicant, Luton Borough Council and Highways Agency</b>	<p>Can the Applicant, Luton Borough Council and the Highways Agency provide comments regarding the representation submitted by Mr A G Hemming? (Note: This has been accepted as a late submission).</p> <p><a href="http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/TR010011/2.%20Post-Submission/Representations/Additional%20Representations/Mr%20AG%20Hemming.pdf">http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/TR010011/2.%20Post-Submission/Representations/Additional%20Representations/Mr%20AG%20Hemming.pdf</a></p>

Q No:	Question to:	Question:
4	<b>Applicant, Luton Borough Council and any other party</b>	<p>Can the Applicant, Luton Borough Council and any other party provide comments regarding the representation submitted by Mr John-Hateley? (Note: This has been accepted as a late submission).</p> <p><a href="http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010011/2.%20Post-Submission/Representations/Additional%20Representations/John-Hateley.pdf">http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010011/2.%20Post-Submission/Representations/Additional%20Representations/John-Hateley.pdf</a></p>
5	<b>Environment Agency</b>	<p>At present it seems that a number of different flood risk mitigation measures are to be provided for in the Woodside Link, HRN and A5-M1 Link projects and that in addition there is to be some form of Environment Agency Flood Risk Alleviation Scheme. No information is currently available to the ExA regarding the overall strategy for management of flood risk in this particular catchment and prima facie the EA would appear to be adopting an ad hoc or disaggregated approach by relying on several different schemes rather than requiring a single integrated approach.</p> <p>Can the Environment Agency clarify what its approach seeks to achieve and also explain the proposed (or most likely) content and timing of its own intended Flood Risk Alleviation Scheme? This explanation should include an outline of any measures that may relate to the Houghton Brook or the proposed 'Borrow Pit' and how it is intended that the Scheme would be implemented. For example, would the EA fund and deliver the scheme or is it intended that any development of the HRN1 site would include the scheme's provisions and be either designed or paid for by the HRN developers (or both)?</p>

**ANNEX B – Amended examination timetable (At Item 16, 17, 18 and 19)**

Item	Matters	Relevant Dates
16	<p><b>DEADLINE VII</b> for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any comments on responses to ExA 2nd questions,</li> <li>• Applicant's revised draft DCO,</li> <li>• Any s174 obligation, and</li> <li>• Submission of information requested by the ExA from relevant parties at the Issue Specific Hearing held on 21 January 2014</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 4 February 2014</b>
17	<p><b>DEADLINE VIII</b> for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission of information requested by the ExA from relevant parties at the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing held on 22 January 2014</li> <li>• Submission of additional information requested by the ExA under rule 17 on 29 January 2014</li> </ul>	<b>Wednesday 5 February 2014</b>
18	<p><b>Deadline IX</b> for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant's final preferred form of DCO, and any final s174 obligations</li> </ul>	<b>Wednesday 19 February 2014</b>
19	Deadline for close of Examination	<b>Wednesday 8 April 2014</b>