



National  
Infrastructure  
Planning  
Temple Quay  
House  
2 The Square  
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer 0303 444 5000  
Services: NetZeroTeessideProject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk  
email:

To:  
All Interested Parties and Affected  
Persons

Our Ref: EN010103

Date: 7 February 2022

Dear Sir / Madam,

## **The Planning Act 2008**

### **Application by Net Zero Teesside Power Limited and Net Zero North Sea Storage Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Net Zero Teesside Project.**

#### **Request by the Applicants in Respect of the Timing of the Preliminary Meeting / Examination.**

I write to you following my appointment by the Secretary of State as the lead member of the Examining Authority (ExA) to carry out an examination of the above application. I am Kevin Gleeson and the other members of the ExA are Susan Hunt and Beth Davies. A copy of the appointment notice can be viewed under the [Documents tab](#) on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

We would like to thank those of you who submitted Relevant Representations. These representations have assisted us when preparing our proposals regarding how to examine this application.

I write in connection with recent correspondence between the ExA and the Applicants. A letter on behalf of the Applicants dated 26 January 2022 advised of their intention to seek changes to the Net Zero Teesside (NZN) Development Consent Order Application (the DCO Application) and to request a delay to the start of the Examination. A copy of that letter can be viewed on the project website and can be found through this [link](#).

The Applicants' letter of 26 January 2022 outlines further work on the optionality around certain elements of the NZN Project, notably relating to the connections corridors, along with other proposed changes to reduce the Order limits and make other minor updates or changes to the Project. A draft timetable for the change

request in accordance with Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 16 was provided. Based on the draft timetable the Applicants requested that the Preliminary Meeting is arranged for mid-May 2022. Delaying the Preliminary Meeting until mid-May 2022 would mean that it would take place some nine months after the DCO Application was accepted.

Based on the DCLG Examination Guidance<sup>1</sup> the ExA has concerns about the ongoing delay to the commencement of the Examination and consequently on 4 February we sought clarification from the Applicants about the potential need for the Preliminary Meeting to be delayed until mid-May. A copy of my letter can be found [here](#). The Applicants' response dated 4 February (available through this [link](#)) provides further explanation to support their request that the Preliminary Meeting should be delayed.

Before the ExA confirms the date of the Preliminary Meeting we wish to seek the views of Interested Parties and Affected Persons on this matter in the light of the Applicants' response to our questions.

Should you wish to comment please do so by close of business on **14 February 2022**, preferably by email to the address above. All submitted comments will be published on the Examination website, alongside the Applicants' response of 4 February and will be taken into account by the ExA in deciding the next steps in the examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

*Kevin Gleeson*

**Lead Member of the Examining Authority**

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<sup>1</sup> Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent (publishing service.gov.uk)