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All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and  
any Other Person invited to the Preliminary  
Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010103

Date: 19 May 2022

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Dear Sir/ Madam

## **Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8**

### **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**

#### **Examination Timetable and procedure**

This letter (the Rule 8 letter) provides important information about the Examination of this application. The letter and annexes include:

- The Examination Timetable
- An invitation to submit Written Representations
- Details of the publication of the Examining Authority's (ExA) written questions
- A request for Statements of Common Ground
- A request for Local Impact Reports from Local Authorities
- Other Procedural Decisions made by the ExA
- Information about Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspections
- Information about the availability of Examination Documents
- Guidance on the use of the 'Make a submission' tab on the project webpage

All documentation associated with this Examination, including a note of the Preliminary Meeting and the recording of that meeting, can be viewed under the [Documents tab](#) on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-east/the-net-zero-teesside-project/>).

## The Examination Timetable

We have made a Procedural Decision about the way the application will be examined. The final Examination Timetable is attached at **Annex A** to this letter.

The Examination Timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in our [Rule 6 letter](#). In finalising the Examination Timetable we have sought to accommodate requests and suggestions made orally or in writing to the Preliminary Meeting. A list of the main changes we made to the draft Examination Timetable is set out at **Annex B** to this letter.

Please note that the Examination Timetable contains a number of Deadlines for receipt of information by the Planning Inspectorate. All Deadlines are at 23:59 on the date specified. Please ensure submissions arrive by the Deadline. If you do not make your submissions by the dates specified in the timetable, we may disregard them.

We request that all Interested Parties make their submissions using the [Make a submission tab](#) on the project webpage on or before the applicable Deadline. **Annex E** to this letter provides further information about using the [Make a submission tab](#).

If we consider it necessary to vary the Examination Timetable during the Examination, notification will be sent to Interested Parties, Affected Persons and Statutory Parties. The changes will be published on the [project webpage](#).

## Written Representations

All Interested Parties are now invited to submit any comments on the Relevant Representations already submitted by **Deadline 1** in the Examination Timetable. Interested Parties are also invited to submit Written Representations which should be submitted by **Deadline 2**.

Written Representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in our [Initial Assessment of Principal Issues](#) or to the content of our written questions (see next heading below).

Any person, other than the Applicant, who submits a Written Representation must identify those parts of the application with which they agree and those parts with which they do not agree, explaining the reasons why. Interested Parties should also provide with their Written Representations any data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions to avoid delays in the Examination (see paragraph 74 of [Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent](#)).

We have requested further types of written submissions at various points in the Examination (see **Annex A**).

Any Written Representations and any further written submissions requested during the Examination, that exceed 1500 words, should also be accompanied by a summary which should not exceed 10% of the original text. The summary should set out the key facts of the written submission and must be representative of the submission made.

Representations **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on third party websites. Please see the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#) for further information about Written Representations.

## Examining Authority's Written Questions

We have prepared written questions (ExQ1) about the application and the representations received so far. These questions are published on the project webpage and can be accessed at the following link:

[Examining Authority's First Written Questions \(ExQ1\)](#).

Responses to ExQ1 must be provided by **Deadline 2** in the Examination Timetable.

An editable version of the table of ExQ1 is available in [Microsoft Word](#).

## Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

**Annex B** to this letter contains important details and clarifications about other Procedural Decisions we made at, or following, the Preliminary Meeting. These include:

- Examination Timetable;
- Examining Authority's Written Questions;
- Statements of Common Ground;
- Updated Documents;
- Local Impact Reports;
- Changes to Land Interests; and
- Additional Submissions.

## Format of Examination Events

It is expected that both blended (part in-person and part virtual) and fully virtual events will take place. Please see the Planning Inspectorate's [guidance related to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) for more information, including the detailed guidance relating to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. This guidance is updated periodically to align with the most up to date Government guidance relating to Coronavirus (COVID-19).

We therefore remain flexible and will confirm the format of any hearings when we provide formal notification of each hearing at least 21 days in advance of it taking place.

## Hearings and Site Inspections

As explained in our [Rule 6 letter](#) and at the Preliminary Meeting, the Examination will principally be a written process (see [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#)), supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings (see [Advice Note 8.5: Hearings and site inspections](#) and [Advice Note 8.6: Virtual Examination events](#)).

On this basis, the Examination Timetable at **Annex A** to this letter includes periods of time reserved for any hearings to be held, and we will notify all Interested Parties of any hearings scheduled as part of the Examination at least 21 days in advance of them taking place. That notification will include a Deadline for Interested Parties to inform the Planning Inspectorate if they wish to participate at the notified hearing(s).

We may also undertake further site inspections. Where we are able to view the site from public land, we are likely to do this unaccompanied and a note of the site inspection will be published on the project webpage. The Examination Timetable also reserves time for us to undertake a further Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) during the week commencing 5 September 2022. We will consider each suggested site location to determine if it could be viewed from public land on an unaccompanied basis or if it is necessary to view it on an accompanied basis. We will also consider if it would be appropriate to arrange access to specific sites where they could be inspected as part of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection on an access required basis.

**Annex C** provides details about what Interested Parties should include in a request to be heard at a hearing, and the procedure that will be followed at hearings. It also provides important information about the ASI and attendance at the inspection.

### **Managing Examination correspondence**

Given the volume and frequency of letters the Planning Inspectorate needs to send to Interested Parties during an Examination, we aim to communicate with people by email as electronic communication is more environmentally friendly and cost effective for the taxpayer.

If you have received a letter from the Planning Inspectorate but are able to receive communications by email, please inform the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter as soon as possible.

As the Examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful for you to become familiar with the [project webpage](#).

A [Make a submission tab](#) is available on the website which provides a portal through which parties should make written submissions at relevant deadlines during the Examination. Further information about the 'Make a submission' portal is provided at **Annex E** to this letter.

There is also a function on the right-hand side of the project webpage called 'E-mail updates'. This provides you with an opportunity to register to receive automatic e-mail updates at key stages during the Examination.

### **Your status in the Examination**

You have received this letter because you fall within one of the groups described in the Planning Inspectorate's document [What is My Status in the Examination?](#)

If your reference number begins with '2002', 'NZTP-0', 'NZTP-AFP', 'NZTP-AFP' or 'NZTP-APP' you are in Group A. If your reference number begins with 'NZTP-SP' you are in



Group B. If your reference number begins with 'NZTP-OP' you are in Group C. The meaning and purpose of those groups are explained in the document published at the link above.

If having read this document you are still unsure about your status, please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

### **Awards of costs**

All parties will normally be expected to meet their own costs. Costs can be awarded against a party who has acted unreasonably and has caused the party applying for the award of costs to incur unnecessary or wasted expense during the Examination. You should be aware of the relevant costs guidance [Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders](#).

### **Management of information**

Information, including representations, submitted in respect of this Examination (if accepted by the Examining Authority) and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate is published on the [project webpage](#).

Examination Documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex D** to this letter.

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair Examination, it is necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how we handle your personal information please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

We look forward to working with all parties in the Examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

*Kevin Gleeson*

### **Lead Member of the Examining Authority**

#### **Annexes**

- A** Examination Timetable
- B** Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- C** Requests to appear and procedure to be followed at hearings
- D** Availability of Examination Documents
- E** Information about the Make a submission tab

This communication does not constitute legal advice.  
Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

## Examination Timetable

The Examining Authority (ExA) is under a duty to **complete** the Examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

The Examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at hearings.

Item	Matters	Date
1.	<b>Preliminary Meeting</b>	<b>Tuesday 10 May 2022 10.00am</b>
2.	<b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH1)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISH1 on the scope of the Proposed Development</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 10 May 2022 2.00pm</b>
3.	<b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH2)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISH2 on the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)</li> </ul>	<b>Wednesday 11 May 2022 10.00am</b>
4.	<b>Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAH1 on the Applicants' compulsory acquisition (CA) and temporary possession (TP) case</li> </ul>	<b>Wednesday 11 May 2022 2.00pm</b>
5.	<b>Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI1)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASI1 to inspect the Order land where no public right of access is available</li> </ul>	<b>Thursday 12 May 2022 9.00am</b>
6.	<b>Issue by the ExA of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examination Timetable</li> </ul> <b>Publication of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ExA's Written Questions (ExQ1)</li> </ul>	<b>Thursday 19 May 2022</b>

<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Deadline 1</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on Relevant Representations (RRs)</li> <li>• Local Impact Reports (LIRs) from Local Authorities</li> <li>• Initial Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs)</li> <li>• Statements of Commonality for SoCGs</li> <li>• Update to Status of Negotiations Table to Appendix 1 of the Statement of Reasons</li> <li>• Submission of a separate Compulsory Acquisition Schedule</li> <li>• Notification of Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party (IP)</li> <li>• Notification of wish to speak at an Open Floor Hearing (OFH)</li> <li>• Notification of wish to speak at any further Issue Specific Meeting (ISH)</li> <li>• Notification of wish to speak at any further Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH)</li> <li>• Submission of suggested sites to be included in any further Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) including reasons why the site needs to be visited on an accompanied basis and any access requirements</li> <li>• Notification of wish to attend a further ASI</li> <li>• Revised Application Guide</li> <li>• Notification of wish to have any future correspondence received electronically</li> <li>• Post-hearing submissions including written summaries of oral case put at any of the hearings held on 10 and 11 May 2022</li> <li>• Deadline 1 action points</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>Thursday 26 May 2022</b></p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Deadline 2</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses to the ExA's ExQ1</li> <li>• Responses to comments on Relevant Representations</li> <li>• Written Representations (WRs), including summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words</li> </ul>	<p><b>Thursday 9 June 2022</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on LIRs</li> <li>• Updated SoCGs</li> <li>• Updated Statement of Commonality for SoCGs</li> <li>• Revised Compulsory Acquisition Schedule (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Updated dDCO (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Updated schedule of changes to the dDCO</li> <li>• Revised Application Guide (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 1</li> <li>• Deadline 2 action points</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> </ul>	
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Deadline 3</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on responses to the ExA's ExQ1</li> <li>• Responses to comments on LIRs</li> <li>• Comments on WRs</li> <li>• Comments on any other information submitted at Deadline 2</li> <li>• Updated SoCGs (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Updated Statement of Commonality for SoCGs</li> <li>• Revised Compulsory Acquisition Schedule (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Comments on the Applicants' dDCO</li> <li>• Revised Application Guide (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Applicants to provide a draft itinerary for a further ASI (if required)</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> </ul>	<b>Thursday 23 June 2022</b>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Deadline 4</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses to comments on WRs</li> <li>• Comments on any other information submitted at Deadline 3</li> <li>• Updated SoCGs (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Updated Statement of Commonality for SoCGs</li> <li>• Updated dDCO (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Updated schedule of changes to the dDCO</li> </ul>	<b>Thursday 7 July 2022</b>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised Application Guide (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>Revised Compulsory Acquisition Schedule (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>Comments on the Applicants' draft itinerary for the ASI</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> </ul>	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH3)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ISH3 on the dDCO</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday</b> <b>12 July 2022</b> <b>10.00am</b>
<b>12.</b>	Date Reserved for <b>Open Floor Hearing</b>	<b>Tuesday</b> <b>12 July 2022</b> (evening event, time tbc)
<b>13.</b>	<b>Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH2)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CAH2 on the Applicants' compulsory acquisition (CA) and temporary possession (TP) case and on any CA and TP objections (if there are requests to be heard)</li> </ul>	<b>Wednesday</b> <b>13 July 2022</b> <b>10.00am</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH4)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ISH4 on environmental matters</li> </ul>	<b>Thursday</b> <b>14 July 2022</b> <b>10.00am</b>
<b>15.</b>	<b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH4) (if required)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ISH4 on environmental matters</li> </ul>	<b>Friday</b> <b>15 July 2022</b> <b>10.00am</b>
<b>16.</b>	<b>Deadline 5</b> Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post hearing submissions, including written submission of oral case and any post-hearing notes requested at the hearings held during w/c 16 May 2022</li> <li>Comments on any other information submitted at Deadline 4</li> <li>Updated SoCGs (clean and tracked versions)</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday</b> <b>2 August 2022</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated Statement of Commonality for SoCGs</li> <li>• Revised Statement of Negotiations Schedule (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Updated dDCO (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Updated schedule of changes to the dDCO</li> <li>• Revised Application Guide (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> </ul>	
<b>17.</b>	<p>Issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ExA's Second Written Questions (ExQ2)</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 9 August 2022</b>
<b>18.</b>	<p><b>Deadline 6</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses to the ExA's ExQ2</li> <li>• Comments on the Applicants' proposed changes to the dDCO</li> <li>• Comments on any other information submitted at Deadline 5</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 23 August 2022</b>
<b>19.</b>	<p><b>Deadline 7</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on responses to the ExA's ExQ2</li> <li>• Updated SoCGs (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Updated Statement of Commonality for SoCGs</li> <li>• Revised Statement of Negotiations Schedule (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Revised Application Guide (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Comments on any other information submitted at Deadline 6</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> </ul>	<b>Thursday 1 September 2022</b>

20.	<p><b>Hearings and ASI</b></p> <p>Dates reserved for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue Specific Hearings (if required)</li> <li>• Open Floor Hearings (if required)</li> <li>• Compulsory Acquisition Hearings (if required)</li> <li>• ASI (if required)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Monday 5 September 2022 to Friday 9 September 2022</b></p>
21.	<p><b>Publication by the ExA of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the dDCO (if required)</li> <li>• Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) (if required)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tuesday 20 September 2022</b></p>
22.	<p><b>Deadline 8</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post hearing submissions, including written submission of oral case and any post-hearing notes requested at the hearings (if required) held during w/c 11 July 2022</li> <li>• Updated SoCGs (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Updated Statement of Commonality for SoCGs</li> <li>• Revised Statement of Negotiations Schedule (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Updated dDCO (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Updated schedule of changes to the dDCO</li> <li>• Revised Application Guide (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Comments on any other information submitted at Deadline 7</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tuesday 20 September 2022</b></p>
23.	<p><b>Deadline 9</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on the RIES (if required)</li> <li>• Updated SoCGs (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Updated Statement of Commonality for SoCGs</li> </ul>	<p><b>Thursday 6 October 2022</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised Statement of Negotiations Schedule (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Updated Book of Reference</li> <li>• Updated Statement of Reasons</li> <li>• Comments on the ExA's proposed changes to the dDCO (if required)</li> <li>• Revised Application Guide (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Comments on any other information submitted at Deadline 8</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> </ul>	
<b>24.</b>	<p><b>Publication by the ExA of:</b></p> <p>The ExA's Third Written Questions (ExQ3) (if required)</p>	<p><b>Thursday 13 October 2022</b></p>
<b>25.</b>	<p><b>Hearings and ASI</b></p> <p>Dates reserved for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue Specific Hearings (if required)</li> <li>• Compulsory Acquisition Hearings (if required)</li> <li>• ASI (if required)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Monday 17 October 2022 to Friday 21 October 2022</b></p>
<b>26.</b>	<p><b>Deadline 10</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post hearing submissions, including written submission of oral case and any post-hearing notes requested at the hearings (if required)</li> <li>• Responses to the ExA's ExQ3 (if required)</li> <li>• Responses to comments on the RIES</li> <li>• Comments on any other information submitted at Deadline 9</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> </ul>	<p><b>Wednesday 26 October 2022</b></p>
<b>27.</b>	<p><b>Deadline 11</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 1 November 2022</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on responses to the ExA's ExQ3 (if required)</li> <li>• Finalised SoCGs (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Finalised Statement of Commonality for SoCGs</li> <li>• Finalised Statement of Negotiations Schedule (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Finalised dDCO (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Finalised schedule of changes to the dDCO</li> <li>• Finalised Explanatory Memorandum</li> <li>• Updated and finalised Environmental Statement</li> <li>• Finalised Application Guide (clean and tracked versions)</li> <li>• Comments on any other information submitted at Deadline 10</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> </ul>	
<b>28.</b>	<p><b>Deadline 12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on any other information submitted at Deadline 11</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> </ul>	<p><b>Monday 7 November 2022</b></p>
<b>29.</b>	<p><b>End of Examination</b></p> <p>The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months</p> <p>Please note that the ExA may close the Examination before the end of the six-month period if it is satisfied that all relevant matters have been addressed and discussed.</p>	<p><b>Thursday 10 November 2022</b></p>

### Submission times for Deadlines

The time for submission of documents at any deadline in the timetable is 23:59 on the relevant deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA. The acceptance of documents received after the expiry of a deadline is subject to the exercise of discretion by the ExA.

## **Publication dates**

All information received will be published on the [project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website](#), as soon as practicable after the deadlines for submissions.

## **Hearing agendas**

Please note that for Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings, the ExA will publish a high-level agenda alongside the notification of the hearing to help inform your decision about whether to register to participate. A detailed draft agenda will be made available on the [project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) at least five working days in advance of the hearing date. However, the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. For Open Floor Hearings agendas may not be published.

## **Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)**

Where an applicant has provided a No Significant Effects Report or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the application, the ExA may decide to issue a RIES during the Examination. The RIES is a factual account of the information and evidence provided to the ExA on HRA matters during the Examination up to the date of the publication of the RIES, for the purposes of enabling the Secretary of State, as competent authority, to undertake their HRA. It is not the ExA's opinion on HRA matters. Comments on the RIES will be invited by the ExA and any received will be taken into account as part of the ExA's Recommendation to the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet their obligations under Regulation 63(3) of The Habitats Regulations 2017 and/ or Regulation 28 of The Offshore Marine Regulations.

## Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

We have made a number of Procedural Decisions following the Preliminary Meeting<sup>2</sup>:

### 1. Examination Timetable

No requests to amend the dates within the Examination Timetable were made either in writing or orally at the Preliminary Meeting. Consequently, the ExA has not made any material amendments to the Examination Timetable in replacing the draft which was amended to the Rule 6 letter.

The ExA has noted the dates which the Applicants summarised at the Preliminary Meeting and confirmed in writing [AS-197] for relevant submissions and decisions under The Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 in relation to the 'Additional Land'. The ExA will issue an updated Examination Timetable once the dates for the submission of Relevant Representations in respect of Additional Land are confirmed.

### 2. Examining Authority's Written Questions

Our initial written questions (ExQ1) have been published alongside this Rule 8 letter. Whilst most of our written questions are directed at specific parties, no other party should feel inhibited or restricted in responding to any question we ask, even if it is directed elsewhere.

### 3. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

The Applicants are taking the lead in the preparation of SoCGs and it will aid the smooth running of the Examination if all Interested Parties who are participating in the preparation of SoCGs liaise and co-operate with the Applicants in respect of their production. We set out in **Annex I** of our [Rule 6 letter](#) the SoCGs we request are submitted during the Examination of this application. In a Procedural Deadline Submission and as confirmed at the Preliminary Meeting the Applicants indicated their intention to approach three additional parties about the preparation and agreement of SoCG. These parties have been added to the list below. Initial versions of the SoCGs listed below are requested to be submitted **by the Applicants** at **Deadline 1** with final signed versions submitted by **Deadline 11**:

1. Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
2. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
3. South Tees Development Corporation/ Tees Valley Combined Authority/  
Teesworks Limited
4. Marine Management Organisation
5. Environment Agency
6. Natural England
7. Historic England
8. National Grid Electricity Transmissions PLC

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<sup>2</sup> Section 89(1) of the Planning Act 2008

9. National Grid Gas PLC
10. Northern Gas Networks Limited
11. Northern Powergrid (Northeast) PLC/ Northern Powergrid Limited
12. Northumbrian Water Limited
13. PD Teesport Limited
14. Telefonica UK Limited
15. Vodafone and Cornerstone Telecoms
16. Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
17. Air Products plc
18. CATS North Sea Limited
19. CF Fertilisers UK Limited
20. Exolum Seal Sands Limited
21. INEOS Nitriles (UK) Limited
22. Marlow Foods Limited
23. NPL Waste Management Limited
24. Redcar Bulk Terminal Limited
25. Sabic UK Petrochemicals Limited
26. Sembcorp Utilities (UK) Limited
27. Suez Recycling & Recovery UK Limited
28. Anglo American plc (the Woodsmith Project)
29. INEOS UK SNS Limited
30. North Tees Land Limited/ North Tees Limited/ North Tees Rail Limited
31. North Sea Transition Authority
32. Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning
33. National Highways

The SoCGs should cover the following topics where relevant:

- methodology for Environmental Impact Assessment including assessment of cumulative effects;
- data collection methods ;
- baseline data;
- data/ statistical analysis, approach to modelling and presentation of results (including forecast methodologies);
- full expression of expert judgements and assumptions;
- identification and sensitivity of relevant features and quantification of potential impact;
- likely effects (direct and indirect) on special interest features of sites designated or notified for any nature conservation purpose; and
- feasible and deliverable mitigation and method for securing such mitigation within the DCO.

**All of the SoCGs listed above should cover the Articles and Requirements in the draft Development Consent Order.** Any Interested Party seeking that an Article or Requirement is reworded should provide the form of words which are being sought.

Where a particular SoCG cannot be agreed between the parties by **Deadline 11**, or, in so far as any local authority position represents an officer level view only, draft versions of that SoCG are requested to be submitted **by the Applicants at Deadline**



9. The position of the relevant Interested Parties should then be confirmed in the course of the Examination.

The content of SoCGs will help to inform the ExA about the need to hold any Issue Specific Hearings during the Examination, and to enable the ExA and the Applicants to give notice of such hearings at least 21 days in advance of them taking place.

In addition, the ExA requests that at the relevant deadlines set out in the draft timetable, the Applicants provide a Statement of Commonality of Statements of Common Ground to provide an update on progress with SoCGs, an overview of where the areas of agreement and dispute between the Interested Parties are, and a likely timescale for submission.

### 3. Updated Documents

The ExA requests that at each deadline, the Applicants provide an updated application document tracker (Application Guide [AS-133]) which provides a list of the most up-to-date documents before the Examination and an updated Status of Negotiations Schedule (Appendix 1 of the Statement of Reasons [AS-141]) setting out the status of negotiation with all parties affected by the Proposed Development which should be supplemented by a separate Compulsory Acquisition Schedule. Final versions must be submitted at **Deadline 11** before the close of the Examination.

### 4. Local Impact Reports (LIR)

A LIR is a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of a Proposed Development on a local authority's area (or any part of that area). For more information about the importance and content of LIRs see our [Advice Note One: Local Impact Reports](#).

The ExA requests LIRs from Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, the host Local Authorities, (which may be prepared jointly or separately) and welcomes LIRs from any other relevant local authorities who may wish to submit one, in particular Hartlepool Borough Council. All LIRs are requested to be submitted into the Examination no later than by **Deadline 1** on **Thursday 26 May 2022**.

### 6. Changes to Land Interests

Should the Applicants become aware that there has been a change in ownership, or a new interest, in relevant land the Applicants are requested to make the relevant person aware that they can make a request to the ExA to become an Interested Party under section 102A of the PA2008 by completing the [form available on the project webpage](#). The Examination Timetable includes various Deadlines for the submission of an updated Book of Reference and schedule of changes to the Book of Reference, which should include confirmation that relevant persons have been informed of their rights under section 102A.

## 5. Additional Submissions

In addition to the documentation submitted on 24 September 2021 which is listed in Annex I of the Rule 6 letter, we have made a Procedural Decision to accept Additional Submissions from the following:

1. The Applicants' Documents dated October 2021 – ES Appendix 12C [AS030], ES Appendix 15A [AS-031], ES Appendix 24C [AS-032] and ES Appendix 25A [AS-033] (incorrectly listed in Annex I of the Rule 6 Letter).
2. The Applicants' submissions in respect of the timing of the Preliminary Meeting/ Examination [AS-034 and AS-035].
3. Responses to the Examining Authority's Letter of 7 February 2022 [PD-006] regarding the timing of the Preliminary Meeting – from Anglo American [AS-036], Hartlepool Borough Council [AS-037], Loftus Town Council [AS-038], National Highways [AS-039], Natural England [AS-040], Redcar Bulk Terminal Limited [AS-041] and South Tees Development Corporation [AS-042].
4. The Applicants' Notification of Proposed Changes [AS-043 and AS-044].
5. Notification from Mr Mike Blood withdrawing a Relevant Representation [AS-045].
6. Relevant Representation on behalf of Huntsman Polyurethanes (UK) Ltd [AS-046].
7. The Change Request submission from the Applicants [AS-047 to AS-195].
8. Submission on behalf of Exolum Seal Sands Ltd [AS-196].
9. The Applicants' Proposed Dates for Relevant Submissions and Decisions under the Compulsory Acquisition Regulations 2010 in relation to Additional Land [AS-197].

## Requests to appear and procedure to follow at hearings

Our Examination will be principally undertaken through the exchange of written submissions. However the Examination Timetable reserves periods of time for hearings to be held (if required).

## Requests to participate at hearings

Interested Parties are required to notify the Examining Authority (ExA) in writing of their wish to take part in an Open Floor Hearing (OFH) or Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) on or before 26 May 2022 (see **Deadline 1**).

Any request to participate in a hearing **should include** the following information:

- Name and unique reference number (found at the top of any letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate);
- email address (if available) and contact telephone number;
- name and unique reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing (if applicable);
- confirmation of the hearing(s) you wish to participate in;
- for Compulsory Acquisition Hearings, the plot number(s) of the relevant land provided in the [Book of Reference](#) and the [Land Plans](#); and
- the [Examination Library](#) reference number (with paragraph/page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

It is important that notifications from Interested Parties to participate in hearings is submitted separately from any other written submission. Please select the appropriate Deadline and Submission Item under the [Make a submission tab](#) and ensure the submission is titled appropriately to allow us to quickly identify which event the notification relates to. **Annex E** provides further information about the Make a submission tab. Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support to attend a hearing.

If no written requests to take part in an OFH or CAH are received by the above Deadline, we are not required to hold such a hearing, although we may choose to do so nonetheless.

We may also choose to hold Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) about topics that we think need to be explored orally. The decision to hold an ISH about a particular topic is not connected to how relevant or important we consider an issue or topic to be.

The time, date and place of any confirmed hearing will be notified in writing to all Interested Parties, providing at least 21 days' notice.

## Hearing agendas

For Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings the ExA will publish a detailed draft agenda on the project website at least five working days in

advance of the hearing date. However, the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. For Open Floor Hearings an agenda may not be published.

### Procedure at hearings

The Examination will principally be a written process (see the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#)), supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings. Please refer to the [Advice Note 8.5: Hearings and site inspections](#) and [Advice Note 8.6: Virtual Examination events](#) as these provide important information about hearing procedures.

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in Rule 14 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. The ExA is responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence and the process affords very limited scope to allow cross-questioning between parties.

### Hearing livestream and recording

A link to a livestream for each hearing will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before any hearing is due to open. The livestream is available to anybody who wishes to observe a hearing in real time.

All hearings are recorded, and the recordings will be made available on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the close of the hearing. The recordings allow any member of the public who is interested in the application and the Examination to find out what has been discussed.

### Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)

Time has been reserved in the Examination Timetable to undertake an ASI during the week beginning 5 September 2022.

Submission of suggested sites to be included in any further Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) including reasons why the site needs to be visited on an accompanied basis and any access requirements should be provided by **Deadline 1**. Please select the appropriate Deadline and Submission Item under the [Make a submission tab](#). **Annex E** provides further information about the Make a submission tab.

Please note that for logistical and safety reasons it may be necessary to limit the numbers of persons who accompany us for any further ASI, however it should be possible for arrangements to be made for Interested Parties (or their representatives) to join the inspection at specified locations within the itinerary. Access onto private land is at all times by permission of the person controlling it.

A draft itinerary should be submitted by the Applicants at **Deadline 3**.

Comments on the Applicants' draft itinerary should be submitted by **Deadline 4**.

We will then review the comments received and the draft itinerary and may make changes to it. Our final itinerary for any further ASI will be published on the project webpage no later than one week in advance of the inspection.

**Interested Parties should be aware that ASIs are not an opportunity to make any oral representations to us about the Proposed Development.** However, we may invite participants to indicate specific features or sites of interest.

## Availability of Examination Documents

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available to view on the [project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website](#).

All further documents submitted in the course of the Examination will also be published under the [Documents tab](#) of the project webpage.

## The Examination Library

For ease of navigation, please refer to the [Examination Library](#) (EL) which is accessible by clicking the blue button under the Documents tab. The EL is updated regularly throughout the Examination.

The EL records and provides a hyperlink to:

- Each application document;
- each representation and submission made to the Examination; and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is given a unique reference number which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. **Please quote the unique reference number from the EL when referring to any Examination Documents in any future submissions that you make.**

## Electronic deposit locations

Documents can be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the electronic deposit locations listed in the table below. Please note that you may need to bring a form of identification and register as a member in order to use a computer at these locations.

The opening hours and availability of information technology set out in the table below may be subject to changes or limitations to address public health requirements as a result of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Bearing in mind the availability of the documents on the National Infrastructure Planning website and the effect of public health restrictions, please consider your need to attend these locations with care. Please check the current circumstances with the relevant locations before you attend.

Local authority	Venue/address	Opening hours
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	Redcar Library and Community Hub	Monday: 9.00am – 6.00pm
	Redcar & Cleveland House	Tuesday: 9.00am – 6.00pm
	Kirkleatham Street	

**Annex D**

	Redcar TS10 1RT	Wednesday: 9.00am – 6.00pm Thursday: 9.00am – 5.00pm Friday: 9.00am – 6.00pm Saturday: 9.30am – 12.30pm Sunday: Closed
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	South Bank Library and Customer Service Point Low Grange Health Village Normanby Road South Bank Middlesbrough TS6 6TD	Monday: 9.00am – 6.00pm Tuesday: 9.00am – 6.00pm Wednesday: 9.00am – 5.00pm Thursday: 9.00am – 6.00pm Friday: 9.00am – 6.00pm Saturday: 9.30am – 12.30pm Sunday: Closed
Middlesbrough Council	Central Library Centre Square Middlesbrough TS1 2AY	Monday: 9.30am – 12.00pm, then 1.00pm – 5.00pm Tuesday: 9.30am – 12.00pm, then 1.00pm – 5.00pm Wednesday: 9.30am – 12.00pm, then 1.00pm – 5.00pm Friday: 9.30am – 12.00pm, then 1.00pm – 5.00pm

**Annex D**

		Saturday: 9.30am – 12.30pm Sunday: Closed
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	Stockton Central Library Church Road Stockton TS18 1TU	Monday: 8:30am – 6:00pm Tuesday: 8:30am – 8:00pm Wednesday: 8:30am – 6:00pm Thursday: 8:30am – 8:00pm Friday: 8:30am – 6:00pm Saturday: 9:30 – 4:00pm Sunday: Closed
Hartlepool Borough Council	Central Library 124 York Road Hartlepool TS26 9DE	Monday: 10.00am – 4.00pm Tuesday: Closed Wednesday: 10.00am – 4.00pm Thursday: 10.00am – 4.00pm Friday: 10.00am – 4.00pm Saturday: Closed Sunday: Closed
<b>Printing costs</b>	<b>Black and white</b>	<b>Colour</b>
Redcar Library and Community Hub		
A4	Single-sided: 10p	Single-sided:50p
A3	Single-sided: 25p	Single-sided: £1
South Bank Library and Customer Service Point		
A4	Single-sided: 10p	Single-sided: 50p



**Annex D**

A3	Single-sided: 25p	Single-sided: £1
Middlesbrough Central Library		
A4	Single-sided: 10p	Single-sided: 30p
A3	Single-sided: 25p	Single-sided: 75p
Stockton Central Library		
A4	Single-sided: 10p	Single-sided: 40p
A3	Single-sided: 20p	Single-sided: 45p
Hartlepool Central Library		
A4	Single-sided: 10p	Single-sided: 50p
A3	Single-sided: 25p	Single-sided: 75p

## Information about the Make a submission tab

The [Make a submission tab](#) is available on the project webpage.

You will need to enter your unique reference number ('Your ref' found at the top your postcard or email from the Planning Inspectorate) beginning either 2002, 'NZTP-0', 'NZTP-AFP', 'NZTP-SP' or 'NZTP-APP'. If you are making a submission on behalf of another person or organisation, and do not have your own unique reference number, then you should enter the unique reference number of the person or organisation you are representing. If you are not a registered Interested Party then it is at the discretion of the Examining Authority whether or not your submission is accepted.

Submissions will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following the close of the relevant Deadline. For further information about publishing submissions please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

You will be able to submit a document (upload file), make a text representation or both. It is possible to upload multiple files for each individual submission item. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 50MB.

Submissions **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on a third party website eg technical reports, media articles etc. See the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#) for further information about making written submissions. All submissions must be made in a format that can be viewed in full on the National Infrastructure Planning website. Any submissions that exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary; this summary should not exceed 10% of the original text.

You should select the relevant Deadline for your submission and then, on the next webpage, select the appropriate Submission item as described in the Examination Timetable at **Annex A** to this letter. Please ensure you make a separate submission for each Submission item and **do not duplicate your submission**. If you consider that your submission does not fit the description of any of the Submission items then please select the Submission item 'Other' and ensure that it is titled appropriately.

If you experience any issues when using the [Make a submission tab](#) please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter and they will assist.