



Meeting note

Project name	The Net Zero Teesside Project
File reference	EN010103
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	18 March 2020
Meeting with	OGCI
Venue	Teleconference
Meeting objectives	Project update
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 set out the reasoning behind the project name change (from Teesside Cluster Carbon Capture & Usage Project to the Net Zero Teesside Project) and why it had requested a [s35 Direction](#) from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. It was further clarified that the Direction excluded the offshore elements (below mean low water springs) of the project as these could be consented under the established offshore consenting regime. Some offshore elements (such as the connections under the River Tees) would be included as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application (these would be covered by a Deemed Marine Licence within the application).

It was explained that the Project would be taken forward by joint two Applicants. The first would be responsible for the generation station and capture of the CO₂ generated by the power station and the second one would be responsible for the CO₂ gathering network and the transportation and storage of CO₂ to the offshore storage location. The Applicant was advised to seek legal advice regarding how the DCO should be drafted given that there would be joint Applicants, particularly with regard to discharging requirements.

The Applicant is currently in discussions with a number of emitters of CO₂ (power generation and industrial) that could potentially be connected to the CO₂ gathering network. The DCO application would not though include the infrastructure from the emitters (including carbon capture plant) to the gathering network, and this infrastructure would need consent from the relevant local authorities. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to provide supporting material to give the Examining Authority the assurance the emitters would be able to connect to the gathering network.

It is the Applicant's intention to follow the route of existing pipeline runs and rackings where possible. The routes are mainly overground except where these cross the River Tees. The Applicant is aiming to have defined routes at the point of submitting the DCO application.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate there is no Best Available Technique assigned to the carbon capture process.

Project timeline update

- Non statutory Stage 1 consultation completed in October/November 2019;
- Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) to be published May 2020;
- Statutory Stage 2 consultation planned for May/June 2020; and
- Submission of the DCO application scheduled for late September/early October 2020.

The impact from the Coronavirus on the statutory consultation was discussed. The Applicant was advised to discuss with the host local authorities how to build in contingency if public consultation events had to be cancelled or postponed, and potential alternatives to public consultation events. The Applicant was advised to agree with the host authorities how to cover this in the SoCC.

The Applicant raised concerns over statutory obligations to provide the Application documents at deposit locations if these were closed to the public after the consultation started. The Applicant was advised to discuss this with the host local authorities and justify any approach taken in the application documents including any mitigation for this occurrence. The option of targeted consultation was discussed.

Environmental update

The Applicant is progressing the Environmental Statement and Habitats Regulations Assessment and is currently defining the parameters for the assessment. It is considering both direct and indirect impacts on aquatic, terrestrial, marine and ornithological features and is working with statutory consultees including the Environment Agency and Natural England.

The pipelines for the Project cross the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area/Ramsar/Site of Special Scientific Interest. The Applicant does not anticipate screening out likely significant effects and confirmed it would likely be submitting a Report to Inform an Appropriate Assessment with its application.

Compulsory Acquisition

The Applicant confirmed that it has appointed a land referencing team and that a number of the landowners are industrial companies. The Applicant is working on narrowing its pipeline corridors. It was confirmed that pipelines would cross the River Tees. The Inspectorate highlighted that this would lead to the Marine Management Organisation and the Crown Estate becoming Statutory Consultees.

Any other business

The Inspectorate highlighted the ongoing issues around climate change policy, which the Applicant confirmed it was monitoring.

It was agreed to schedule a meeting in July 2020 prior to the submission of draft documents. The Inspectorate confirmed it can review the DCO, Explanatory Memorandum (EM), the HRA and the Statement of Reasons. It also advised that it would be useful to have sight of the project description chapter in the Environmental Statement to help understand the Project. The Inspectorate also highlighted the recent publication of the Design Principles for National Infrastructure by the National Infrastructure Commission and noted that the design principles within this should guide the project's planning and delivery. The Applicant was also advised to explain any novel drafting approaches in the EM.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- Next meeting to be arranged.