

Date: 6 March 2023

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Mr Adrian Miller
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Directorate of Growth, Enterprise and
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Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
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Dear Mr Miller,

HYGREEN HYDROGEN PROJECT – LAND AT THE FOUNDRY SITE, TEESWORKS AND IN THE VICINITY OF WILTON INTERNATIONAL, LACKENBY AND GRANGETOWN, NEAR REDCAR, TEESIDE

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 (THE ‘2017 EIA REGULATIONS’) – REGULATION 15 ‘SCOPING OPINIONS OF THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY’

I write on behalf of bp Alternative Energy Investments Limited (‘bp’ or the ‘Applicant’) to seek an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion from Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (‘RCBC’) under the 2017 EIA Regulations in respect of the HyGreen Hydrogen Project.

The HyGreen Hydrogen Project (the ‘Proposed Development’) will comprise an electrolytic green hydrogen production facility, electricity and water connections and also a hydrogen pipeline to deliver hydrogen to offsite storage facilities and offtakers who will use the hydrogen in the future.

The hydrogen production facility will use electrolysis to split water molecules (H₂O) into hydrogen gas (H₂) and oxygen (O₂) using electricity produced primarily from renewable power sources. The hydrogen production facility will provide up to 80 MWe (megawatt electrical input) of low-carbon hydrogen production. The hydrogen will be supplied to a number of offtakers at Wilton International, Lackenby and Grangetown and potential future storage sites via a hydrogen pipeline network.

The Proposed Development Site lies entirely within the administrative boundary of RCBC to the west of Redcar, Dormanstown and Kirkleatham. The hydrogen production facility will be located at the Foundry site, part of Teesworks, which includes land that previously formed part of the Redcar Steel Works site. The electricity and water connection corridors and the hydrogen pipeline corridor encompass land to the south-east and south of the Foundry site within and around Wilton International, Lackenby and also Grangetown.

The Proposed Development Site extends to an area of approximately 460 hectares. At present the extent of the Proposed Development Site allows for a degree of optionality, notably in terms of the connection and pipeline corridors, but it is envisaged that these corridors would be subject to further appraisal and refinement in advance of a planning application being submitted for the Proposed Development. Consequently, the final planning application boundary is expected to be much reduced in area.

The Proposed Development will support Teesside’s decarbonisation of industry, mobility and heating, together with the H2Teesside Project, which is also being led by bp. H2Teesside is a carbon capture enabled hydrogen production facility, , which will use natural gas to produce hydrogen up to a design capacity of 1.2 Gigawatts thermal, with the carbon dioxide being capture and exported into the Northern Endurance Partnership (NEP) offshore storage facility via NEP infrastructure. H2Teesside will also include hydrogen pipelines either side of the River Tees within Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees and Hartlepool, which will be used to supply hydrogen to various offtakers. H2Teesside will be consented under the Planning Act 2008 and it is anticipated that an application for development consent will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero in the future.

The Applicant has determined that the Proposed Development is EIA development due to its nature and size, that it is located within the vicinity of sensitive areas and its potential, without mitigation, to result in significant environmental effects. This letter therefore represents the Applicant’s formal request for an EIA Scoping Opinion from RCBC under Regulation 15 of the 2017 EIA Regulations as to the scope of the EIA to be undertaken for the Proposed Development.

Regulation 15(2) of the 2017 EIA Regulations sets out the information that must be included with a request for a Scoping Opinion. This letter is accompanied by an EIA Scoping Report prepared by AECOM, which provides that information as follows:

Information Required for a Request for an EIA Scoping Opinion

Description of Information Required for scoping opinion (Regulation 15(2))	Supplementary Descriptions (Regulation 6(2))	Section in EIA Scoping Report where provided
A plan sufficient to identify the land	-	Figure A-1 – Site Location (Appendix A) Figure A-2 – Parts of the Proposed Development Site Boundary (Appendix A)
A brief description of the nature and purpose of the development, including its location and technical capacity	a description of the physical characteristics of the development and, where relevant, of demolition works; a description of the location of the development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected; and a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development	Section 2 ‘Description of the Existing Environment’ Section 3 ‘Proposed Development’ Section 6 ‘Potentially Significant Environmental Effects’

Description of Information Required for scoping opinion (Regulation 15(2))	Supplementary Descriptions (Regulation 6(2))	Section in EIA Scoping Report where provided
An explanation of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment	<p>...resulting from:</p> <p>the expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant; and</p> <p>the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.</p>	<p>Section 6 ‘Potentially Significant Environmental Effects’</p> <p>Section 8 ‘Summary’ – including other topics proposed to be scoped out of the EIA</p>
Such other information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make	<p>... including any features of the proposed development or any measures envisaged to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment</p>	<p>Section 6 ‘Potentially Significant Environmental Effects’</p> <p>Section 4 ‘Consideration of Alternatives’</p> <p>Section 5 ‘Planning Policy and Need’</p> <p>Section 7 ‘Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process’</p> <p>Section 8 ‘Summary’ – including other topics proposed to be scoped out of the EIA</p>

I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of the Applicant’s request for an EIA Scoping Opinion and look forward to receiving the Local Planning Authority’s Scoping Opinion within the timescale set out at Regulation 15(5) of the 2017 EIA Regulations.

Yours sincerely



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