

REPORT

Boston Alternative Energy Facility

Application Cover Letter

Client: Alternative Use Boston Projects Ltd
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Ms Sian Evans
Case Manager
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Date: 23 March 2021
Our ref: 50755/01/HS/JSt/19475577v1
Your ref:

Dear Ms Evans

Boston Alternative Energy Facility. Application for a Thermal Treatment Power Station - Land at Riverside Industrial Estate, Bittern Way, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 7NX

The Planning Act 2008 - Section 37 - Applications for Orders Granting Development Consent

We enclose an application (the 'Application') submitted on behalf of Alternative Use Boston Projects Limited (the Applicant) for a Development Consent Order (a 'DCO') under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 'PA 2008') in respect of the Boston Alternative Energy Facility.

The Applicant is seeking development consent for the construction, operation and maintenance of an Energy from Waste (EfW) plant which will have a generating capacity of approximately 102 megawatts electric (MWe) (delivering 80 MWe to the National Grid, including an electrical connection, a new site access, and other associated development (together 'the Proposed Development') on land at or near Riverside Industrial Estate, Bittern Road, Boston, Lincolnshire ('the Application Site').

A DCO is required for the Proposed Development as it falls within the definition and thresholds for a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' (a 'NSIP') being for the construction or extension of a generating station (s14(1)(a) PA 2008) with a capacity above 50MW (s15(2) PA 2008). The DCO, if made by the Secretary of State, would be known as the 'Boston Alternative Energy Facility Order' ('the Order').

The Applicant

The Applicant is a privately-owned company with core business in Energy from Waste, specifically renewable electricity projects producing "Green Energy".

The company team has been involved in industrial development at Riverside Industrial Estate, Boston, Lincolnshire since 2004. In March 2005, planning consent was obtained for a Special & Clinical Waste Processing Plant, with conditions discharged and commencement of construction.

In 2010, consent was obtained for a 12 MWe Gasification Power Station that would process waste wood (known as Biomass UK No. 3 Ltd) with enabling works carried out during 2013. This facility was sold to Aviva Investors in November 2015, along with the right to develop the facility, and in September 2016 it was

transferred to Biomass UK No. 3 Ltd. The Biomass UK No. 3 Ltd facility is entirely separate to the proposed Facility.

The Application Site

The Application Site is located approximately 2 km to the south of Boston town centre and covers 26.8 hectares (ha). It is split in to two components: the area containing operational infrastructure for the Facility (the 'Principal Application Site'); and an area containing habitat mitigation works for wading birds (the 'Habitat Mitigation Area'). The Principal Application Site (NGR TF33950 42241) covers 25.3 ha and is neighboured to the west by the Riverside Industrial Estate and to the east by The Haven, a tidal waterway of the River Witham between The Wash and the town of Boston. The A16 public highway is located approximately 1.3 km to the west. The Habitat Mitigation Area covers 1.5 ha and is located approximately 170 m to the south east of the Principal Application Site, encompassing an area of saltmarsh and small creeks at the margins of The Haven.

The Principal Application Site is accessed by road via the Riverside Industrial Estate's existing road network from Nursery Road. Access to the site from the west to Marsh Lane is gained from Bittern Way.

The Application Site lies within the administrative areas of Boston Borough Council, a non- unitary authority and Lincolnshire County Council.

The vast majority of the Application Site is owned by a single landowner, with whom the Applicant is currently engaged in positive discussions to secure the necessary interests and rights to construct and operate the Facility. Further, the Applicant is engaging with the Crown Estate in respect of the rights it requires to undertake capital and maintenance dredging within the Crown Estate's land (within The Haven). Notwithstanding those positive discussions and arrangements, compulsory powers are still required over land leased by third parties or for unregistered land (with unknown owners), to ensure that the Applicant has all necessary rights to bring forward the Proposed Development.

The Proposed Development

A summary of the main components of the proposed development is as follows:

- Thermal Treatment plant comprising three nominal 34 MWe combustion lines (circa 120 MWth) and associated ductwork and piping, transformer pens, diesel generators, three stacks, ash silos and ash transfer network; and air pollution control residues (APCr) silo and transfer network; turbine plant comprising steam turbine generators, make-up water facility and associated piping and ductwork; Air-cooled condenser structure, transformer pen and associated piping and ductwork.
- Lightweight Aggregate (LWA) manufacturing plant comprising four kiln lines, two filter banks with stacks, storage silos for incoming ash, APCr, and binder material (clay and silt), a dedicated berthing point at the wharf, silt storage and drainage facility, clay storage and drainage facility, LWA workshop, interceptor tank, LWA control room, aggregate storage facility and plant for loading aggregate / offloading clay or silt.
- RDF bunker building, conveyor system running in parallel to the wharf between the RDF storage area and the RDF bale shredding plant. Part of the conveyor system is open and part of which is under cover (including thermal cameras); an RDF bale contingency storage area, including sealed drainage, with automated crane system for transferring bales; a bale shredding plant.
- Electrical export infrastructure.
- Two carbon dioxide (CO₂) recovery plants and associated infrastructure, including chiller units; and

- Associated site infrastructure, including site roads, pedestrian routes, car parking, site workshop and storage, security gate, control room with visitor centre and site weighbridge.
- Habitat Mitigation Works for redshank and other bird species comprising of improvements to the existing habitat through the creation of small features such as pools/scrapes and introduction of small boulders within the Habitat Mitigation Area.

A detailed description of the proposed development is provided at Schedule 1 of the Draft DCO and Chapter 5 Project Description in ES Volume 1 (Document Reference 6.2.5).

Benefits of the Facility

The benefits of the Facility have informed the Planning Statement (document reference 5.2) as follows: -

NPS EN-1 is unequivocal in highlighting the scale and urgency of need that exists for nationally significant energy infrastructure, particularly low carbon, renewable energy generation, including plant powered by the combustion of biomass and waste. It is clear from reporting prepared by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the National Infrastructure Commission (now the Planning Inspectorate) and the National Grid of the urgency for the development of new renewable low carbon energy generating capacity to meet national need. The Facility will contribute to meeting this urgent need. This need is accorded significant weight.

Reflecting this urgent need, within a 48 months development timeframe, the Facility is likely to be commissioned and operational by Q3 of 2026 assuming the DCO application is approved by Q4 2021.

The Facility would contribute to energy security by providing reliable electricity generation to the national electricity grid over a period of at least 25 years.

The Application Site is predominantly allocated in the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Site Locations (adopted 2017), (Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Plan (adopted 2016) for Waste Management uses including energy recovery and is part allocated within the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (adopted 2019) for employment development, which together form the development plan.

When read as a whole the development accords with development plan policy. This is accorded modest weight in respect to Section 104 (7) of the Planning Act 2008.

The Facility would provide significant benefits for the regional and local economy, in terms of direct and indirect employment during the construction and operational phases. The facility will support approximately 651 direct and indirect jobs over the 48 months construction period. It is estimated that up to 132 (44%) will be taken by local residents to Boston (some 14% of the construction labour force).

The Facility is combined heat and power (CHP) ready.

The 'Proximity Principle' as established in the revised Waste Framework Directive, 2008/98/EC) (rWFD), requires waste to be disposed of, or recovered in one of the nearest appropriate installations, by means of the most appropriate methods and technologies. The Facility, would provide further energy generating capacity with the UK using waste as fuel, providing greater national self- sufficiency in managing such waste, thereby offsetting the propensity to export RDF to Europe in the quantities recently reported.

In addition, recovery of energy from residual waste at the Facility is a preferential option on the waste hierarchy compared to landfill; and managing the UK waste within the UK, rather than exporting it, promotes the proximity principle at a national scale. Furthermore, the on-site manufacture of aggregate by recycling the thermal treatment residues and APC residues promotes the waste hierarchy and the proximity principle.

The Facility would not affect the implementation of the relevant Waste Plans and is sited in accordance with the locational considerations in NPS EN-3, National Planning Policy Framework, Planning Policy for Waste, and the adopted Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan and South East Lincolnshire Local Plan.

It is considered likely that greenhouse gas emissions associated with provision of the Facility would be lower or similar when compared to existing waste treatment streams. Therefore, greenhouse gas emissions arising from the Facility, accounting for the offset of savings elsewhere in the UK energy generation sector, will not impact the UK's ability to meet its 2050 carbon reduction targets. Whilst it is not required to do so, the Facility provides for carbon capture.

The facility produces a lightweight aggregate, which would be transported off-site via ship for use in the construction industry.

Ships are to be used to deliver aggregate for construction and waste during operation, reducing road transport effects.

Limited compulsory acquisition is required.

Boston Borough Council and Lincolnshire County Council Engagement

The Applicant continues to engage with Boston Borough Council and Lincolnshire County Council in order to progress a Statement of Common Ground. The Applicant will keep the Examining Authority updated as regards process throughout the Examination.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017' (the '2017 EIA Regulations') came into force on 16 May 2017, replacing the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (the '2009 EIA Regulations'). The ES has therefore been produced in accordance with the 2017 EIA Regulations.

The Proposed Development represents an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') development and the Application therefore includes an Environmental Statement ('ES') (Document Ref: category 6) that reports the findings of the EIA.

The Application Submission

The Application Guide (Document Ref: 1.2) lists the documents that make up the Application (the 'Application Submission') and how these comply with relevant legislative and policy requirements. The Application Guide is a 'live' document that will be updated throughout the examination of the Application, as required.

The application includes the Applicant's Section 55 Checklist (Document Ref: 1.5) which details compliance with the criteria set out in Section 55 of the PA 2008.

Schedule 1 to the draft DCO (Document Ref 2.1) provides the formal description of the Proposed Development and its components and identifies the individual Work Numbers for those components. A detailed description of the Proposed Development is provided at Chapter 5 'Project Description of the ES Volume I (Document Ref. 6.2.5).

The Applicant is seeking limited compulsory acquisition and temporary possession powers to acquire land, rights over land and interests in land, and other related powers to support the delivery of the Proposed Development. Details of the plots of land over which powers are being sought are provided in the Book of Reference (Document Ref: 3.3) and the Statement of Reasons (Document Ref: 3.1).

The Land Plans (Document Ref: 4.2) show the extent of the land (the 'Order land') shows the land required for the Proposed Development, while the Works Plans (Document Ref: 4.3) show the Order limits and identifies the location of the main components of the Proposed Development within the Application Site by reference to the Works Numbers set out in Schedule 1 to the draft DCO.

Information regarding statutory consultation in accordance with sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008, including how responses received to that consultation have been taken into account, is documented within the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1). The compliance of the Proposed Development with the relevant National Policy Statements and other relevant policy is set out in the Planning Statement (Document Ref: 5.2).

The Application Documents can be downloaded by the Planning Inspectorate using the file share link and password provided via e-mail separately.

The required fee on submission of £7,227 was paid to the Planning Inspectorate by BACS on 24/02/2021 in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010.

A GIS shapefile of the Order Limits was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 16/03/2021 and the electronic application index was also provided in advance of this formal application.

We look forward to receiving the Planning Inspectorate's acknowledgement of receipt of the Application and in due course its decision on acceptance. In the meantime, should you have any questions with regard to the Application, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Paul Salmon using the details contained in the application form.

Yours faithfully



Jonathan Standen

Planning Director

Copy

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