

REPORT

Boston Alternative Energy Facility - Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Chapter 1 Introduction

Client: Alternative Use Boston Projects Ltd

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1.1 This document is the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) for the Boston Alternative Energy Facility (herein ‘the Facility’). A full project description is given in **Chapter 5 Project Description**.
- 1.1.2 This PEIR describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the Facility including associated infrastructure, which may arise from the construction, operation (including maintenance activities), and decommissioning phases of the Facility.
- 1.1.3 The purpose of this PEIR is to provide the preliminary environmental information and initial assessments undertaken as required by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive (85/337/EEC) as amended (European Parliament, 2014) and more specifically under The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (‘the EIA Regulations’) (EIA Regulations, 2017).
- 1.1.4 The Facility constitutes a project falling within the definition of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (HMSO, 2008) by virtue of the Facility requiring the building, commissioning and operating of a generating station with an energy generating capacity greater than 50 megawatts electric (MWe). Consent for the Facility would therefore require a Development Consent Order (DCO) to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, who will determine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State. The process of EIA is governed by the EIA Regulations (EIA Regulations, 2017).
- 1.1.5 The Facility is considered to be an ‘EIA development’ for the purposes of the EIA Regulations, and is currently in the pre-application stages of the DCO process.
- 1.1.6 This PEIR has been informed by a Scoping Opinion that was provided by the Planning Inspectorate in July 2018 (Planning Inspectorate, 2018a).
- 1.1.7 The PEIR has been produced to support statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (HMSO, 2008). The information contained herein is to be regarded as preliminary; feedback from this consultation will be used to inform the final development scheme proposed, and the associated impact assessment contained within the Environmental Statement (ES).
- 1.1.8 The ES will be submitted as part of an application for a DCO as required under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (HMSO, 2008). Further information on the legislative context for the Facility is provided in **Chapter 3 Policy and**

Legislation.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 The Facility is proposed to be located at Riverside Industrial Estate, Boston, Lincolnshire. The Riverside Industrial Estate is adjacent to the tidal River Witham (known as The Haven) and down-river from the Port of Boston. The Application Site is denoted by the solid red line on **Figure 1.1**. The central National Grid Reference (NGR) for the site is TF 33950 42241.
- 1.2.2 The Facility is an energy recovery plant that will generate approximately 102 MWe (gross) of renewable energy, and will deliver approximately 80 MWe (net) to the National Grid. The energy recovery plant will be a gasification facility using refuse derived fuel (RDF) as the feedstock to generate energy.
- 1.2.3 This type of facility is not listed in Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations (EIA Regulations, 2017). The Facility would be a Schedule 2 development (Paragraph 3. Energy Industry “(a) industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water projects not included in Schedule 1 of these Regulations”). In consideration of the nature of the Facility and the associated elements, the Applicant, Alternative Use Boston Projects Ltd (AUBP), has determined that an EIA will be required without a request for a formal Screening Opinion and will be submitting an ES with the DCO application for the proposed Facility.

1.3 Developer and Project Team

- 1.3.1 AUBP is the Applicant undertaking the development and securing funding for the Facility. AUBP is a privately-owned company with core business in Energy from Waste, specifically renewable electricity projects producing “Green Energy”.
- 1.3.2 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.
- 1.3.3 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.
- 1.3.4 Royal HaskoningDHV was commissioned by AUBP to coordinate the DCO application process and produce the documentation necessary to consider the

Facility's impacts on all environmental receptors.

- 1.3.5 Royal HaskoningDHV is supported through the EIA process by several additional consultants who are responsible for particular specialist topics, as detailed in **Table 1.1**.
- 1.3.6 The EIA Regulations require an ES to be compiled by 'competent experts'. The competencies of each technical topic lead are detailed in **Appendix 1.1**.

1.4 PEIR Structure

- 1.4.1 The chapters included in the PEIR are detailed in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1 PEIR Chapter List

Chapter Type	Chapter Number	Title	Responsible Author
Introductory	1	Introduction	Royal HaskoningDHV
	2	Project Need	Royal HaskoningDHV, Lichfields, Eversheds Sutherland
	3	Policy and Legislative Context	
	4	Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives	
	5	Project Description	
	6	Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment	Royal HaskoningDHV
	7	Consultation	Royal HaskoningDHV, Athene Communications
Topic-specific	8	Cultural Heritage	Royal HaskoningDHV
	9	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	Estell Warren (now part of DRaW)
	10	Noise and Vibration	Royal HaskoningDHV
	11	Contaminated Land, Land Use and Hydrogeology	
	12	Terrestrial Ecology	
	13	Surface Water, Flood Risk and Drainage Strategy	
	14	Air Quality	
	15	Marine Water and Sediment Quality	
	16	Estuarine Processes	
	17	Marine and Coastal Ecology	
	18	Navigational Issues	

Chapter Type	Chapter Number	Title	Responsible Author
	19	Traffic and Transport	
	20	Socio-Economics	Lichfields
	21	Climate Change	Royal HaskoningDHV
	22	Health Impacts	
	23	Waste	
	24	Transboundary Impacts	
	25	Summary	

1.4.2 The Planning Inspectorate notes that the purpose of a PEIR is to allow the public to develop an understanding of the potential environmental impacts of a proposed development, which will inform their responses to consultation. It is acknowledged that the level of detail presented in a PEIR will be influenced by the following factors:

- when in the design process the consultation is carried out;
- the target audience; and
- the complexity of the project.

1.4.3 This PEIR includes an impact assessment across a range of technical topics for review and comment during the formal consultation process, based on the proposed design of the Facility. Where a topic has only been partially assessed for impacts, this is identified in the appropriate chapter. It is noted that for **Chapter 18 Navigational Issues** the final assessment of impacts on navigation is subject to the outcome of ongoing consultation with relevant stakeholders, including Port of Boston.

1.4.4 A cumulative impact assessment was carried out considering other schemes proposed or in development in the Boston area, as identified through consultation with relevant stakeholders. Any additional cumulative projects agreed for consideration following this s42 consultation will be presented in the ES.

1.4.5 The Scoping Report (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2018) did not specifically address transboundary effects. The Planning Inspectorate undertook a screening for transboundary effects under Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations in September 2018, and the screening report was published on the Boston Alternative Energy Facility pages of the National Infrastructure Planning website (Planning Inspectorate, 2018b).

- 1.4.6 Based on the information that was available at the time of the screening, the Planning Inspectorate concluded that the Proposed Development is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment in another European Economic Area (EEA) State. In reaching this view the Planning Inspectorate applied the precautionary approach, as explained in its Advice Note Twelve: Transboundary Impacts (Planning Inspectorate, 2018c), and took into account information supplied by the Applicant.
- 1.4.7 Further consideration of potential transboundary effects was undertaken and is presented in the relevant technical chapters of this document and summarised in **Chapter 24 Transboundary Impacts**.

1.5 References

European Parliament (2014). Council Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment.

Royal HaskoningDHV (2018) Boston Alternative Energy Facility EIA Scoping Report

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (2017) (the EIA Regulations). [Online] Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/contents/made> (Accessed 14th June 2019).

The Planning Inspectorate (2018a). Scoping Opinion: Proposed Boston Alternative Energy Facility, Case Reference: EN010095. Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010095/EN010095-000008-BAEF%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion.pdf> [Accessed: 01/02/2019].

The Planning Inspectorate (2018b) Transboundary screening undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) for the purposes of Regulation 32 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 2017 EIA Regulations) <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010095/EN010095-000020-BAEF%20-%20Regulation%2032%20Transboundary%20Screening.pdf>

The Planning Inspectorate (2018c) Advice Note Twelve: Transboundary Impacts and Process <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Advice-note-12v2.pdf>