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National Infrastructure

Our ref: AE
Your ref: DV

AE/2016/120256/01-L01 DWD ref 2746D

Consents
4th Floor Area C
3 Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2AW

Date: 05 April 2016

Dear N

VARIATION OF CONSENT UNDER THE ELECTRICITY GENERATING STATIONS (VARIATION OF CONSENTS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2013. GATEWAY ENERGY CENTRE (GEC), THE MANORWAY, STANFORD-LE-HOPE, ESSEX, SS17 9PD.

Thank you for your consultation received on 21 March 2016. We have inspected the application, as submitted, and have no objection. However, we have the following advice relating to the Environmental Permitting Regulations.

A permit application under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) 2010 (as amended) is being determined by the Agency for a 1250MWe Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT). This application will continue to be determined.

The new proposal is that the final build will comprise up to two CCGTs or one CCGT and one or more Open Cycle Gas Turbines (OCGT) with a combined rated electrical output of less than 300MW. Should this replace 'Scenario 1' as the preferred option, to operate the proposed Section 36 variation of 'Scenario 2', an application to vary the EPR permit will be required. At the time of the EPR variation, the application would need to include evidence / assessment of the associated environmental impacts using the final design / details of Scenario 2 (including air emissions, noise, water, etc). The permit will need to be consistent with the limits of the Section 36 variation.

EN-1 Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy, requires applicants to consider reasonable alternatives to the proposed development. The energy efficiency of OCGTs is significantly less than CCGTs and consequently assessment of the environmental impact of the OCGT with reference to alternative plant is essential.

Parallel tracking of the planning and permit application is recommended, as this allows joint assessment of any issues. For example, an EPR permit application

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requires a Best Available Technique Assessment of the plant options. Without parallel tracking, there is always a risk for the applicant that planning will have to be re-visited should permitting process identify changes that need to be made to the proposal.

We trust this advice is useful.

Yours sincerely

Sustainable Places - Planning Advisor

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cc Dalton Warner Davis

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