



Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Chapter 19: Summary and Next Steps

June 2021

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with energy.**



Report for

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Contents

19.	Summary and Next Steps	4
19.1	Introduction	4
19.2	The Preliminary Environmental Information	4
19.3	Environmental Impact Assessment	5
19.4	The Next Steps	5

19. Summary and Next Steps

19.1 Introduction

- 19.1.1 Medworth CHP Limited (the 'Applicant') intends to make an application to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for an Energy from Waste (EfW) Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Facility (the 'Proposed Development') on the industrial estate, Algores Way, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.
- 19.1.2 The Proposed Development will recover useful energy in the form of electricity and steam from over half a million tonnes of non-recyclable (residual), non-hazardous Municipal and Commercial and Industrial waste each year. Generating over 50 megawatts, the electricity will be exported to the grid. The facility will also have the capability to export steam and electricity to users on the surrounding industrial estate.
- 19.1.3 The Proposed Development is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Part 3 Section 14 of the Planning Act 2008 (hereafter referred to as the '2008 Act')¹ by virtue of the fact that the generating station is located in England and has a generating capacity of over 50 megawatts (see section 15(2) of the 2008 Act). It, therefore, requires an application for a DCO to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate under the 2008 Act.
- 19.1.4 Terms and abbreviations used within this chapter are defined in **Appendix 1F: Terms and Abbreviations**.

19.2 The Preliminary Environmental Information

- 19.2.1 This PEIR has been prepared as part of an EIA and statutory consultation requirements relating to the Proposed Development.
- 19.2.2 In accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, the Applicant must publicise and consult on preliminary environmental information (PEI) as part of its duty to consult in accordance with section 47 of the Planning Act. PEI is defined within Regulation 14(2) as information which:
- has been compiled by the applicant; and
 - is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development).
- 19.2.3 This PEIR has been prepared for the purpose of meeting those requirements of the EIA Regulations.
- 19.2.4 **The Applicant is actively seeking consultees' comments on the information provided in the PEIR to inform the ongoing design and assessment of the Proposed Development. The Applicant will have regard to any relevant**

¹ Planning Act 2008. Available online at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents> [Accessed May 2021]

responses received during the statutory consultation in relation to the PEIR when preparing the ES for the DCO application.

19.3 Environmental Impact Assessment

19.3.1 An EIA is required because the Proposed Development falls within paragraph 10 of Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations, which refers to:

“Waste disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment (as defined in Annex I to Directive 2008/98/EC under heading D9) of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 100 tonnes per day.”

19.3.2 As such, an EIA is being undertaken in respect of the Proposed Development in support of the DCO application. In accordance with Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, the Applicant formally notified the Secretary of State in writing on the 3 December 2019 of the intention to provide an ES in respect of the Proposed Development (**Appendix 1C**).

19.3.3 In accordance with good practice, a scoping report was prepared for the Proposed Development to identify the potential likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development. Of these effects, those that were assessed as being likely to be significant were proposed for further assessment in the EIA. This reflects the requirement of the EIA Regulations for the ES to only discuss in depth, those effects that are likely to be significant.

19.3.4 The scoping report was issued to the Planning Inspectorate, who act on behalf of the Secretary of State, on 3 December 2019, together with a request for a scoping opinion under the EIA Regulations. Under these regulations the Secretary of State is required to consult with the ‘consultation bodies’ (as defined in the EIA Regulations). The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, issued a formal Scoping Opinion on 13 January 2020 (**Appendix 1D**). A number of late Scoping consultation responses were also received (**Appendix 1E**).

Drawing upon the Scoping Opinion, and subsequent scoping and assessment work informed by stakeholder engagement, the PEIR includes the environmental information compiled by the Applicant to date and presents a preliminary view of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development for each environmental topic chapter. In addition, it includes for a preliminary assessment of inter-related significant effects which is provided in **Chapter 18 Cumulative Effects**.

19.4 The Next Steps

19.4.1 The Applicant is actively seeking consultees’ comments on the information provided in the PEIR to inform the ongoing design and assessment of the Proposed Development. The Applicant will have regard to the comments received during the statutory consultation when preparing the ES.

19.4.2 Over the summer of 2021, the Applicant will continue and/or commence those environmental surveys that could not begin sooner due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions or due to the need for authorisation pursuant to section 53 of the 2008 Act. Informal consultation with key consultees has indicated that the relevant

baseline conditions are now appropriate to allow the surveys to be undertaken. These surveys will be carried out over the summer of 2021 and the results used to inform the final assessments reported in the ES.

19.4.3

In summary, the Applicant will undertake a number of steps, in addition to the statutory consultation, to inform the preparation of the ES and subsequent submission of the DCO application. These steps include:

- Environmental surveys / monitoring:
 - ▶ continue with ecological and ornithological surveys;
 - ▶ undertake continuous noise monitoring;
 - ▶ undertake noise and traffic surveys;
 - ▶ undertake surveys of ground conditions along the route of the Grid Connection, and;
 - ▶ carry out any other environmental surveys necessary to obtain an updated assessment of baseline conditions.
- Informal consultation:
 - ▶ Continue liaison with the Internal Drainage Boards and Environment Agency to inform the potential for water discharge into and the crossing of watercourses;
 - ▶ Continue liaison with the local and strategic highways authorities to finalise access designs and the routing of construction and operational traffic;
 - ▶ Confirm whether pre-positioned ducts or Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) can be used to cross the A47 at Elm High Road and Broadend Road,
 - ▶ Continue liaison with Network Rail to assess the CHP Connection and reopening New Bridge Lane and;
 - ▶ Continue liaison with key consultees to inform other aspects of the design.
- Finalisation of the details of the design of the Proposed Development, to include:
 - ▶ Select the preferred Grid Connection Option, and;
 - ▶ Select the preferred Grid Connection Temporary Construction Compound (TCC).
- Preparation of the Environmental Statement:
 - ▶ Maintain an up to date register of Tier 1, 2 and 3 projects, plans and programmes to inform the cumulative assessment, and;
 - ▶ Following the conclusions of the full environmental assessments, set out any additional proposed mitigation measures.

19.4.4

The ES will build upon the PEIR to present a complete and detailed assessment of the likely significant environmental effects that may arise from the construction,

operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The ES will be submitted as part of the Applicant's DCO application.

