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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

1.1.1 This Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report has been prepared on behalf of VPI Immingham B Ltd ('the Applicant'), in relation to a proposed application ('the Application') pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act). This application is seeking an 'Order' granting development consent (a Development Consent Order, or DCO) for the construction and operation of a gas-fired power station. This power station is proposed to be constructed on the land to the north of the existing VPI Immingham Power Station Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant, Rosper Road, South Killingholme, Immingham, DN40 3DZ.

1.1.2 The project is referred to in this PEI Report as the 'Proposed Development' or 'VPI Immingham OCGT power station'. This PEI Report presents the initial findings of an ongoing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and is presented to inform the statutory (Stage 2) consultation process that the Applicant is undertaking.

1.1.3 The DCO would provide the necessary authorisations and consents for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development - a new gas-fired power station of up to 299 Megawatts (MW) gross electrical output and associated development. This includes:

- The power station itself;
- The construction and operation of a new underground pipeline to convey gas to the new power station from a new tie in to an existing pipeline located to the south of the existing CHP plant;
- The construction of a new Above Ground Installation (AGI) to be located at the tie-in of the new to the existing pipeline to the south of the existing CHP plant;
- Temporary construction laydown;
- Service and utility connections to the existing CHP plant; and
- New electrical connection to the existing National Grid Substation located on the existing CHP plant site to facilitate export of electricity generated to the National Grid.

More detail on the elements of the Proposed Development is included in Chapter 4: The Proposed Development of this PEIR.

1.1.4 An existing gas pipeline is currently used for fuelling the existing CHP plant. The Applicant is not seeking consent for any works to the existing pipeline, but it is included within the DCO Application as the Applicant is seeking compulsory acquisition powers over it, to ensure that the Applicant can use and maintain the pipeline.

1.1.5 All the land required for the power station, new pipeline, AGI, laydown, service and electrical connection elements of the Proposed Development lies within the administrative area of North Lincolnshire Council. Most of the land in which the existing gas pipeline is located is also within the administrative area of North Lincolnshire Council, with a small section extending into the administrative area of North East Lincolnshire Council. All land associated with the Proposed

Development is referred to in the PEI Report as 'the Site'. Figure 1.1 provided in PEI Report Volume II illustrates the Site location. An explanation of the various areas of the Site is provided in Chapter 3: Site Description.

1.2 The Applicant

- 1.2.1 VPI Immingham B Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of VPI Holding Ltd ('VPI'). VPI owns and operates the existing CHP plant at South Killingholme, one of the largest CHP plants in Europe, providing both electricity and steam to the adjacent oil refineries and electricity to the National Grid.
- 1.2.2 VPI was acquired by Vitol in 2013, an energy trading company based out of Rotterdam, in the Netherlands.

1.3 The Proposed Development

- 1.3.1 The Proposed Development comprises the construction and operation of an Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) power station with a generating capacity of up to 299 MW gross electrical output, comprising a single gas turbine unit and associated ancillary infrastructure. Subject to obtaining the necessary consents and financing, construction is anticipated to start in mid-2021 and commencement of commercial operation could take place from Q4 2022.
- 1.3.2 The Proposed Development will be designed to operate for an expected period of at least 40 years after which ongoing operation will be reviewed and a commercial decision made at that time whether or not to continue operation. Should operation cease at that time, the plant will be decommissioned.
- 1.3.3 The Proposed Development will be located largely within a plot of land located between the existing CHP plant to the south, the entrance and carpark associated with the Lindsey Oil Refinery to the north and Rosper Road to the east. The Site extends to approximately 14.9 hectares (ha) (excluding the existing pipeline), and the Applicant has secured an option to acquire a lease of the land required for the Main OCGT Power Station Site. Additional land for the new connections and existing gas pipeline is also required. Please refer to Chapter 3: Site Description for detailed descriptions of the Site areas.
- 1.3.4 The Site and its surroundings are described in Chapter 3: Description of the Site. A detailed description of the Proposed Development is provided in Chapter 4: The Proposed Development.
- 1.3.5 The Proposed Development would provide vital new energy infrastructure required to ensure security of supply to the UK, operating during periods of low electricity supply - due to the intermittency of renewables, other power station maintenance shut-downs or high demand on the transmission network, for example.
- 1.3.6 Environmental impacts arising from the Proposed Development are being studied systematically as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, and the initial results are presented within this PEI Report. The baseline for the assessment has been derived from measurements and studies in and around the Site. This is explained further in Chapter 2: Assessment Methodology, and in the methodology section of each technical assessment chapter.

- 1.3.7 The ongoing EIA process is considering impacts resulting from the, construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, and considers measures to eliminate, reduce or mitigate any significant adverse effects on the environment. It also identifies 'residual' impacts, defined as impacts remaining following the implementation of mitigation measures.
- 1.3.8 The EIA is also considering the potential cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development with other relevant known proposed or consented schemes, as outlined in Chapter 20: Cumulative and Combined Effects. In particular, this includes the potential cumulative impacts with an application for a gas fired power station of up to 49.9MW electrical output located on land immediately to the west to the Site. This application was submitted by a subsidiary of VPI Holding Ltd to North Lincolnshire Council in May 2018 under the Town and County Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and planning permission was granted on 7 September 2018.

1.4 The Consenting Process

- 1.4.1 The Proposed Development falls within the definition of a '*Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project*' (NSIP) under Section 14(1)(a) and Sections 15(1) and (2) of the 2008 Act, as it is an onshore generating station in England that would have a generating capacity greater than 50MWe output. As such, a Development Consent Order (DCO) is required to authorise the Proposed Development in accordance with Section 31 of the 2008 Act.
- 1.4.2 A DCO has the effect of granting consent for a development in addition to a range of other consents and authorisations, as well as removing the need for some consents (such as planning permission). Section 115 of the Act also provides that a DCO can include consent for '*associated development*', that is, development that is not part of but is required for the development of the NSIP. This may be development that supports the construction or operation of the NSIP, which helps to address the impacts of the NSIP or is of a type normally brought forward with the particular type of NSIP (here the generating station).
- 1.4.3 An application for development consent is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS). Subject to the application being accepted, the Planning Inspectorate will then examine it and make a recommendation to the SoS, who then decides whether to grant a DCO.

1.5 The Purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report

- 1.5.1 The Proposed Development falls within Schedule 2 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('the EIA Regulations'). As such it is not automatically EIA development, but will be as the Applicant has notified the SoS under Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations that it proposes to provide an Environmental Statement (ES); it is therefore considered to constitute 'EIA development'. As such an EIA is being undertaken and this PEI Report summarises the EIA work completed to date.

- 1.5.2 This PEI Report has been prepared to satisfy the requirement of ‘Preliminary Environmental Information’ as defined in the EIA Regulations under Regulation 12 as:

“information referred to in regulation 14(2) which –

(a) has been compiled by the applicant; and

(b) 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)”

Regulation 14(2) provides the requirements for the content of an Environmental Statement.

- 1.5.3 Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seven (Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping) (Ref 1-1) notes;

“A good PEI document is one that enables consultees (both specialist and non-specialist) to understand the likely environmental effects of the proposed development and helps to inform their consultation responses on the proposed development.”

- 1.5.4 In order to enable consultees to understand the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development, this PEI Report presents preliminary findings of the environmental assessments undertaken to date. This allows consultees the opportunity to provide informed comment on the Proposed Development, the assessment process and preliminary findings prior to the finalisation of the DCO application and the ES. The Applicant is seeking the views of consultees on the information contained within this report, and there is opportunity within the process up to submission of the DCO application for both the EIA and the project design to have regard to comments received.

- 1.5.5 It should be noted that this PEI Report does not constitute a full ES, but rather presents the assessments completed as part of the EIA process to date. The various assessments are at differing stages of completion; however, it is considered that the information presents sufficient environmental information to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the Proposed Development. Following statutory consultation on the PEI and once the design is further developed; this PEI Report will be developed into a final ES taking into consideration comments raised during the consultation. The ES will be submitted as part of the suite of DCO application materials.

- 1.5.6 The design of the Proposed Development will continue to be refined and some baseline data are not yet available, although this does not prevent a good understanding of the potential impacts and effects of the Proposed Development at this stage.

- 1.5.7 This PEI Report adopts a robust worst case assessment basis. It is not possible to present a complete impact assessment on each environmental topic, but instead this report depicts what the likely impacts are, based upon current information, and what work will be undertaken to complete the individual assessments for the final ES. Presentation of preliminary environmental information in this way also allows the

EIA process to take account of comments received during the statutory consultation process.

- 1.5.8 The Applicant has chosen to approach the PEI Report as a Draft ES. Accordingly Table 1.1 below summarises where the requirements of Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations (insofar as they apply to the PEI report) have been addressed.

Table 1.1 Requirements of Regulation 14(2) of the EIA Regulations

Requirement	Where information is provided
A description of the proposed development comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development;	Chapter 3: Description of the Site, Chapter 4: The Proposed Development
A description of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment;	Chapters 6-16 (technical assessments)
A description of any features of the proposed development, or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;	Chapter 4: The Proposed Development;
A description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the applicant, which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the development on the environment;	Chapter 4: The Proposed Development;
A non-technical summary of the information referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (d)	Non-Technical Summary
Any additional information specified in Schedule 4 relevant to the specific characteristics of the particular development or type of development and to the environmental features likely to be significantly affected	Chapters 6-16 (technical assessments)

1.6 EIA Scoping

- 1.6.1 The issues that the Applicant considered the EIA needed to address were identified in the EIA Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in May 2018 (Appendix 1A (PEI Report Volume III)).
- 1.6.2 The EIA Scoping Report was developed following initial consultation with a number of statutory consultees and was informed by the EIA team's experience working on a number of other power station projects, including those in the vicinity of the Site. The SoS' Scoping Opinion was received in July 2018, including the formal responses received by the Planning Inspectorate from consultees (Appendix 1B (PEI Report Volume III)). Key issues raised in the Scoping Opinion are summarised

at the start of each technical chapter of the PEI, and all issues are being considered during the EIA process. As required by the EIA Regulations (regulation 14(3)), the ES will be based on the Scoping Opinion – similarly, as far as possible, this PEI Report is also based on it.

1.7 Consultation

1.7.1 Consultation is integral to the preparation of DCO applications and to the EIA process. The views of consultation bodies and information provided by the local community serve to focus the environmental studies and to identify specific issues that require further investigation, as well as to inform aspects of the design of the Proposed Development. Consultation is an on-going process and the publication of this PEI forms an important part of that process.

1.7.2 The Act requires applicants for development consent to carry out statutory pre-application consultation on their proposals. There are a number of requirements as to how this consultation must be undertaken that are set out in the Act and related regulations:

- Section 42 of the Act requires the applicant to consult with ‘prescribed persons’, which includes certain consultation bodies such as the Environment Agency and Natural England, relevant statutory undertakers, relevant local authorities, those with an interest in the land, as well as those who may be affected by the development;
- Section 47 of the Act requires the applicant to consult with the local community on the development. Prior to this, the applicant must agree a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) with the relevant local authorities. The SoCC must set out the proposed community consultation and, once agreed with the relevant local authorities, a SoCC Notice must be published in local newspapers circulating within the vicinity of the land in question. The consultation must then be carried out in accordance with the final SoCC;
- Section 48 of the Act places a duty on the applicant to publicise the proposed application in the ‘prescribed manner’ in a national newspaper, The London Gazette, local newspapers circulating within the vicinity of the land and (in relevant cases) certain marine publications; and
- Section 49 places a duty on the applicant to take account of any responses received to the above consultation and publicity when formulating its application for a DCO and finalising the Proposed Development.

1.7.3 The Applicant is adopting a two stage approach to pre-application consultation on the Proposed Development. Stage 1 consultation (non-statutory consultation) was carried out during July 2018. Stage 2 (statutory) consultation, which will commence at the same time as the publication of this PEI Report (in or around October 2018).

1.7.4 The issues that have been raised through consultation and how these have been considered and addressed within the design evolution of the Proposed Development and the EIA will be set out in the ES.

1.7.5 The pre-application consultation undertaken by the Applicant will be documented within the Consultation Report that will form part of the DCO application. In

accordance with Planning Inspectorate Advice Note (Advice Note 14) (Ref 1-2), technical consultation conducted as part of the EIA (e.g. EIA Scoping and PEIR comments by the EIA consultation bodies) will be summarised in an appendix to the final ES.

1.8 References

- Ref 1-1 Planning Inspectorate (2017) *Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seven (Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping)*. Version 6 December 2017.
- Ref 1-2 Planning Inspectorate (2012) *Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Fourteen (Compiling the Consultation Report)* Version 2, April 2012.