

Riverside Energy Park

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

CHAPTER:

01

PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE NUMBER:
EN010093

INTRODUCTION

June 2018 | Revision 0

Planning Act 2008 | Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Cory Environmental Holdings Limited (trading as Cory Riverside Energy ('the Applicant')) is applying to the Secretary of State under the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) for powers to construct and operate an integrated Energy Park, to be known as Riverside Energy Park (REP). The principal elements of REP comprise complementary energy generating development, with an electrical output of up to 96 megawatts (MWe), and an associated Electrical Connection (together referred to as the 'Proposed Development'). As the generating capacity of REP will be in excess of 50 MWe it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Sections 14 and 15 of the PA 2008 and therefore requires a Development Consent Order (DCO) to authorise its construction and operation.
- 1.1.2 REP would be located adjacent to an existing Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) operated by the Applicant (referred to as Riverside Resource Recovery Facility (RRRF)) situated at Norman Road in Belvedere within the London Borough of Bexley (LBB). The underground Electrical Connection would run from the REP site and terminate at the Littlebrook substation in Dartford. Plans showing the location, Indicative Application Boundary and indicative location of project elements are provided in **Figures 1.1-1.3, Appendix A.1** of this Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). A glossary of terms and definitions is provided in **Chapter 17**.
- 1.1.3 This PEIR is provided as part of the REP DCO pre-application consultation. It sets out preliminary environmental information and the preliminary findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken to date which is reasonably required for consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.4 Consultees are invited to provide feedback and comments on the proposals and the preliminary findings contained in this PEIR during the consultation period which runs from 18th June 2018 to 30th July 2018 (inclusive).

1.2 The Development Consent Order Process

- 1.2.1 The Applicant must submit a DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), the government body responsible for operating the planning process for NSIPs, who will first decide whether to accept the application. If accepted, PINS will appoint an Examining Authority to examine the application.
- 1.2.2 Following the examination, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State. The Secretary of State must determine the application in accordance with the relevant National Policy Statements (NPSs) for the Proposed Development which are: NPS EN-1 (Overarching Energy Policy), NPS EN-3 (Renewable Energy Supply from Waste) and NPS EN-5 (Electricity Networks Infrastructure). If the Secretary of State decides to grant development consent then they will make a DCO which will authorise the construction, commissioning and operation of the Proposed Development.

1.3 The Applicant and Study Team

- 1.3.1 Cory Environmental Holdings Limited is registered in England (Company Number 5360864) and is the Applicant for the Proposed Development. The Applicant's registered address is 2 Coldbath Square, London, EC1R 5HL, United Kingdom.
- 1.3.2 The Applicant is a leading recycling, energy recovery and resource management company, with an extensive river logistics network in London. The Applicant consented, constructed and now operates the existing RRRF adjacent to the Proposed Development. RRRF is a key element of London's energy and resource management infrastructure.

- 1.3.3 The Applicant is now progressing proposals for REP to maximise the use of its existing infrastructure and land holding and to further meet the needs for resource recovery and energy generation in the UK and in London.
- 1.3.4 Further information on REP is provided at <http://www.riversideenergypark.com>.
- 1.3.5 Preparation of the DCO application is being managed by the Applicant with support from the following consultancy team:
- Ardent Management Ltd – land referencing;
 - Camargue Group Ltd – community engagement services;
 - Fichtner Consulting Engineers Limited – engineering services;
 - Hitachi Zosen Inova AG – proposed technology provider and engineering, procurement and construction services;
 - Marico Marine - marine navigation specialists;
 - Peter Brett Associates LLP – environmental and planning services; and
 - Pinsent Masons LLP – legal services.

1.4 EIA Development

- 1.4.1 The Proposed Development is considered to fall within Schedule 1¹ to the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017). Accordingly, an EIA is being undertaken pursuant to the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017. The DCO application will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES), prepared in accordance with the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017 which set out the requirements for undertaking an EIA and the required information for inclusion in an ES.
- 1.4.2 The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the 'APFP Regulations') require that a DCO application, where applicable, must be accompanied by an ES and a scoping opinion. A Scoping Opinion was obtained from PINS in January 2018 and is included as **Appendix A.2**.

1.5 Preliminary Environmental Information

- 1.5.1 Under Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017, the Applicant is required to set out in its Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) how it intends to publicise and consult on preliminary environmental information relating to the Proposed Development. Regulation 12 defines preliminary environmental information as being the information referred to in Regulation 14(2) which has been compiled by the Applicant; and is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the development (and of any associated development).

¹ For EIA purposes the Proposed Development is considered to fall within paragraph 10 of Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017 (i.e. 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). It should be noted that, for the purposes of the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), the Proposed Development will be classified as a recovery operation, rather than a disposal operation.

- 1.5.2 Information has been collated in this document which presents the environmental information collected to date together with a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development.
- 1.5.3 Regulation 14 of the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017 requires that, to ensure completeness and quality of Environmental Statements, “...the developer must ensure that the environmental statement is prepared by competent experts”. **Appendix A.3** is a statement outlining the relevant expertise and qualifications of the team which is undertaking the EIA and has contributed to this PEIR.

1.6 Proposed Development

- 1.6.1 The Proposed Development comprises REP and the associated Electrical Connection. These are described in turn, together with the anticipated REP operations, below. **Chapter 3** provides further details of the Proposed Development.

REP

- 1.6.2 REP would be constructed on land immediately adjacent to the Applicant’s existing RRRF, within the LBB and would complement the operation of the existing facility. It would comprise an integrated range of technologies including: waste energy recovery, waste anaerobic digestion, solar panels and battery storage. The main elements of REP would be as follows:
- **Energy Recovery Facility (ERF):** to provide thermal treatment of Commercial and Industrial (C&I) residual (non-recyclable) waste with the potential for treatment of (non-recyclable) Municipal Solid Waste (MSW);
 - **Anaerobic Digestion facility:** to process food and green waste. Outputs from the Anaerobic Digestion facility would be transferred off-site for use in the agricultural sector as fertilizer or as an alternative, where appropriate, used as a fuel in the ERF to generate electricity;
 - **Solar Photovoltaic Installation:** to generate electricity. Installed across a wide extent of the roof of the Main REP building;
 - **Battery Storage:** to store and supply additional power to the local distribution network at times of peak electrical demand. This facility would be integrated into the Main REP building; and
 - **On Site Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Infrastructure:** to provide an opportunity for local district heating for nearby residential developments and businesses. REP would be CHP Enabled with necessary on site infrastructure included within the REP site.

Electrical Connection

- 1.6.3 REP would be connected to the electricity distribution network via a new 132 kilovolt (kV) underground electricity cable connection. The route options for the Electrical Connection are shown in **Figure 1.2, Appendix A.1** of the PEIR.
- 1.6.4 In consultation with UK Power Networks (UKPN), the Applicant is currently considering Electrical Connection route options to connect to the existing National Grid Littlebrook substation located south east of REP, in Dartford. The route options are located within the LBB and Dartford Borough, and would run from a new substation proposed to be constructed within the REP site.

- 1.6.5 All Electrical Connection route options have been included within the Indicative Application Boundary at this stage. It is anticipated that a single route will be confirmed through feedback from consultees and working with UKPN, and included in the DCO application.

REP Key Logistics

- Delivery of waste to REP: most of the waste will be delivered to REP by barge from Waste Transfer Stations (WTS) situated along the River Thames, utilising the existing jetty which is located immediately to the north of RRRF and the REP site. The remainder would be delivered by road. Delivery of food and green waste for the Anaerobic Digestion facility would be by road. The proportions of the total amount of waste to be delivered by road and river will be determined through further assessment work and details included in the DCO application.
- Removal of by-products from REP: Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) would be transported by river to the existing IBA Facility at the Port of Tilbury for treatment/recycling, and then for onward use as secondary aggregate in the construction sector. Air Pollution Control Residues (APCR) would be taken off-site by road in sealed containers to be treated/recycled for use as a construction material.

1.7 Structure of this Document

- 1.7.1 This document has been structured to allow the reader to understand: the Proposed Development; the purpose of this document and the regulatory framework in which it has been prepared; and the environmental information, assessment methodologies and emerging findings of the EIA to date. The document is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 1** comprises an overview of the Proposed Development, an introduction to the consenting regime and a description of the Applicant;
- **Chapter 2** provides a description of the environmental planning policy background and regulatory framework in which the document has been prepared;
- **Chapter 3** provides a description of the REP site and surrounding area, and a description of REP including the Electrical Connection;
- **Chapter 4** provides a description of the methodology employed in undertaking the EIA for the Proposed Development;
- **Chapter 5** provides a description of reasonable alternatives which have been considered to date; and
- **Chapters 6 to 14** provide a description of the emerging findings of the EIA process to date for each environmental topic scoped into the assessment as well as ongoing or further work to be undertaken prior to submission of the DCO application. The topics covered are:
 - Chapter 6 – Transport
 - Chapter 7 – Air Quality
 - Chapter 8 – Noise and Vibration
 - Chapter 9 – Townscape and Visual Impact Assessment (TVIA)
 - Chapter 10 – Historic Environment
 - Chapter 11 – Terrestrial Biodiversity
 - Chapter 12 – Hydrology, Flood Risk and Water Resources
 - Chapter 13 – Ground Conditions
 - Chapter 14 – Socio Economics

- 1.7.2 Each topic chapter includes:

- a brief introduction;
- an explanation of the relevant policy, legislation, guidance and standards for that topic;
- a summary of consultation responses from the Scoping Opinion and other relevant consultations received to date and how these have been taken into account;
- a description of the topic specific reasonable worst case scenario for assessment;
- a brief explanation of the assessment methodology and significance criteria used;
- a description of the baseline conditions and receptors;
- a summary of topic specific mitigation embedded in the Proposed Development;
- the preliminary findings of the assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development after incorporating embedded mitigation;
- the preliminary findings of the assessment of the cumulative effects of the Proposed Development;
- an explanation of what further mitigation may be appropriate in order to minimise significant adverse effects;
- the preliminary findings of the assessment of the residual significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development;
- a description of any monitoring requirements; and
- a description of any further work required and summary of residual effects.

1.7.3 **Chapters 15 to 17** provide an overview and summary of other issues/topics considered and a summary of the technical chapters, addressing the following:

- Chapter 15 – Other Considerations
- Chapter 16 – Summary of Preliminary Findings and In-combination Effects
- Chapter 17 – Glossary

1.7.4 A separate Non-Technical Summary (NTS) which summarises the PEIR in non-technical language is also available.