

Riverside Energy Park

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

CHAPTER:

15

PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE NUMBER:
EN010093

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

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

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Appendix K

K.1 – Health Impact Assessment

15 Other Considerations

15.1 Introduction

15.1.1 During the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, the Applicant has identified that the Proposed Development may give rise to other environmental effects in addition to those described in **Chapters 6-14**. These include effects relating to the following topics:

- Climate;
- Lighting;
- Human Health; and
- Waste.

15.1.2 The above topics were considered as part of the EIA Scoping process and the consultee comments on these topics in the subsequent Scoping Opinion (**Appendix A.2**) have been taken into account in preparing this Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). Where necessary, these are included in assessments.

15.1.3 The Scoping Opinion (issued by the Secretary of State) confirmed that the above topics do not require a specific ‘topic’ Chapter within the Environmental Statement, as no likely significant effects relating to them are anticipated. However, due to their interaction with other EIA disciplines (which have been assessed and reported within this PEIR) information has been provided on the above topics within this Other Considerations Chapter.

15.2 Climate

15.2.1 The Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017, under Schedule 4, part 4, require an Environmental Statement (ES) to consider ‘Climate’. The Scoping Report proposed that effects from the Proposed Development on Climate (contributions to greenhouse gases) could be scoped out of the EIA, and that consideration of the potential impact from climate change on the development from future climate change projections would be considered in specific topic chapters where relevant.

Contribution to Greenhouse Gasses

15.2.2 In relation to greenhouse gasses and the effects on climate, the Scoping Opinion confirmed that: *“the Inspectorate [(Secretary of State)] considers that significant effects are not likely and agrees that this can be scoped out of the ES.”* The Secretary of State further noted that a qualitative assessment of greenhouse gas emissions should be submitted with the application.

Impact of climate change on the Proposed Development

15.2.3 The Scoping Report set out that the impact of climate change on the Proposed Development could be scoped out of the EIA except where it relates to:

- Terrestrial Biodiversity;
- Hydrology, Flood Risk and Water Resources; and
- Health.

- 15.2.4 The Scoping Opinion confirmed that the Secretary of State agreed with scoping out climate change in relation to other technical disciplines.
- 15.2.5 Impacts of climate change on the Proposed Development have therefore been considered as an inherent part of those topics listed above through the following Chapters:
- **Chapter 11** – Terrestrial Biodiversity;
 - **Chapter 12** – Hydrology, Flood Risk and Water Resources; and
 - **Chapter 15 Appendix K.1** – Health Impact Assessment.

15.3 Lighting

- 15.3.1 Artificial lighting will be required both temporarily during the construction phase of the Proposed Development, and permanently during the operational phase of the Riverside Energy Park (REP).

Construction

- 15.3.2 During construction, temporary artificial lighting will be used to provide a safe working site during hours of darkness. The appointed contractors will follow relevant legislation and guidance to ensure potential adverse effects from temporary artificial lighting required during the construction phase are minimised. No likely significant effects from light intrusion, sky glow or glare are therefore anticipated.
- 15.3.3 The principles for ensuring appropriate use of lighting during the construction phase will be set out in the Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP), which is anticipated to be submitted as part of the DCO application. The measures set out in the final CoCP would be secured through Requirements of the Development Consent Order (DCO).

Operation

- 15.3.4 During operation, limited artificial lighting will be used to ensure safe and secure use of the REP site. The final design for REP will include a Lighting Statement. The statement will be developed in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance in order to minimise effects from light intrusion, sky glow or glare. The artificial lighting required for operation is not expected to change the overall nature of the existing ambient light conditions at the REP site. No additional lighting is anticipated for the jetty or shared areas already used for Riverside Resource Recovery Facility (RRRF).
- 15.3.5 A Lighting Statement will be submitted as part of the DCO application setting out the principles for the operational lighting design for the REP site.

Potential Effects from Lighting

- 15.3.6 The Scoping Report stated it is considered that the Proposed Development will not result in significant effects to the environment in terms of lighting, and therefore proposed to scope lighting out of the EIA. The Scoping Opinion (**Appendix A.2** of this PEIR) confirmed that impacts from lighting during construction and operation on human receptors can be scoped out of the EIA. The Secretary of State did however request that the potential effects on lighting on terrestrial ecological receptors are considered within the EIA.
- 15.3.7 Accordingly, **Chapter 11** (Terrestrial Biodiversity) considers the preliminary potential effects of lighting on ecological receptors.

15.4 Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

Introduction

- 15.4.1 It is also acknowledged that human health must be given consideration as part of the EIA process under the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017 (Schedule 4, part 4). Additionally, the adopted and emerging London Plans require development proposals to take account of the potential impact of proposals on health and health inequalities. The Scoping Opinion (**Appendix A.2**), acknowledged that, as per the Scoping Report, the potential impact of the Proposed Development on human health would be assessed as part of the Air Quality assessment and through provision of a separate HIA to be appended to the ES.
- 15.4.2 The preliminary findings of the HIA are included as an appendix (**Appendix K.1**) to this chapter. The HIA, together with the Air Quality assessment presented in **Chapter 7**, provide the preliminary findings of the assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Development on human health.

Methodology

- 15.4.3 **Appendix K.1** defines health as:

“...a state of complete physical, social and mental wellbeing and not simply the absence of disease or infirmity”

- 15.4.4 Therefore, the definition of human health and wellbeing draws on a wide variety of factors or determinants that could be of influence.
- 15.4.5 The HIA uses the Greater London Authority (GLA) HIA methodology as set out in Chapter 5 of the Social Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance 2015, identifying several principal steps in undertaking an HIA, namely screening, scoping, appraising the evidence, making recommendations and monitoring and evaluation. It then identifies the baseline assessment and community profile.
- 15.4.6 The HIA utilises information gathered from the baseline and information from consultation undertaken. It then sets out outline relevant health and wellbeing objectives which are used as a starting point for the assessment. The Proposed Development is then compared against each objective to identify a positive or negative effect of development on the health and wellbeing of identified receptors, applying significance criteria and providing a basis for setting actions for further mitigation and enhancement. See **Appendix K.1** for further detail on the assessment methodology.

Summary of Assessment/Report

- 15.4.7 The preliminary findings of the HIA have drawn on various technical assessments reported in the PEIR such as air quality, ground conditions, transport, noise and socioeconomics which have considered potential risks to human health.
- 15.4.8 The preliminary findings have identified that with the inclusion of the proposed embedded mitigation measures, it is anticipated that effects on health outcomes will not be significant. However, it has been identified that there may be significant long term beneficial effects on health outcomes associated with security of energy supply if the potential for connecting to the district heating network is realised, particularly to locally identified vulnerable groups such as deprived areas within Thamesmead East. **Appendix K.1** contains further detail on the preliminary findings of the HIA.
- 15.4.9 The HIA will continue to be developed, drawing on the conclusions of the ongoing EIA and other assessments of relevance to health.

15.5 Waste

- 15.5.1 The Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017 require (under Schedule 4, part 5) an ES to describe the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from *'the disposal and recovery of waste'*.
- 15.5.2 The Scoping Report sets out that likely significant effects relating to waste are not anticipated to arise from the construction or operation of the Proposed Development. The Scoping Opinion confirmed that the Secretary of State considers that operational 'general waste' is unlikely to result in significant effects and agreed this could be scoped out of the EIA. However, it is noted that the Scoping Opinion requires resultant road or vessel movements from other bi-products from REP (including digestate, Incinerator Bottom Ash and Air Pollution Control Residue) to be factored into the relevant technical assessments. The Secretary of State also noted that waste arisings during the construction phase should be considered as necessary through the relevant technical chapters.
- 15.5.3 Accordingly, the volumes of waste (and other bi-products) arising from the Proposed Development have been factored into the parameters for assessment within **Chapter 6** (Traffic and Transport).
- 15.5.4 The Outline CoCP is anticipated to be submitted as part of the DCO application and will include principles for the management of waste during the construction phase. A Waste Management Strategy will also be submitted as part of the DCO application setting out the principles by which waste will be managed during the operation of REP; identifying the waste expected to arise and the proposed routes for managing those arisings.

15.6 Summary of Other Considerations

- 15.6.1 This Chapter has identified where the Proposed Development may give rise to effects from climate, lighting, human health and waste as identified through the Scoping process.
- 15.6.2 These topics are not individually assessed as they are considered unlikely to result in significant effects to the environment, however they have been incorporated into topic assessments where necessary and relevant.
- 15.6.3 Further consideration will be given to these topics within ongoing assessment work and reported within the ES.